



SPACE ADVENTURES PRESENTS
ROCKY JONES

SPACE ADVENTURES *presents*



No 15



ROCKY JONES

SPACE RANGER

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

10¢

TELEVISION'S
TOP
SPACE
ADVENTURES



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SPACE ADVENTURES



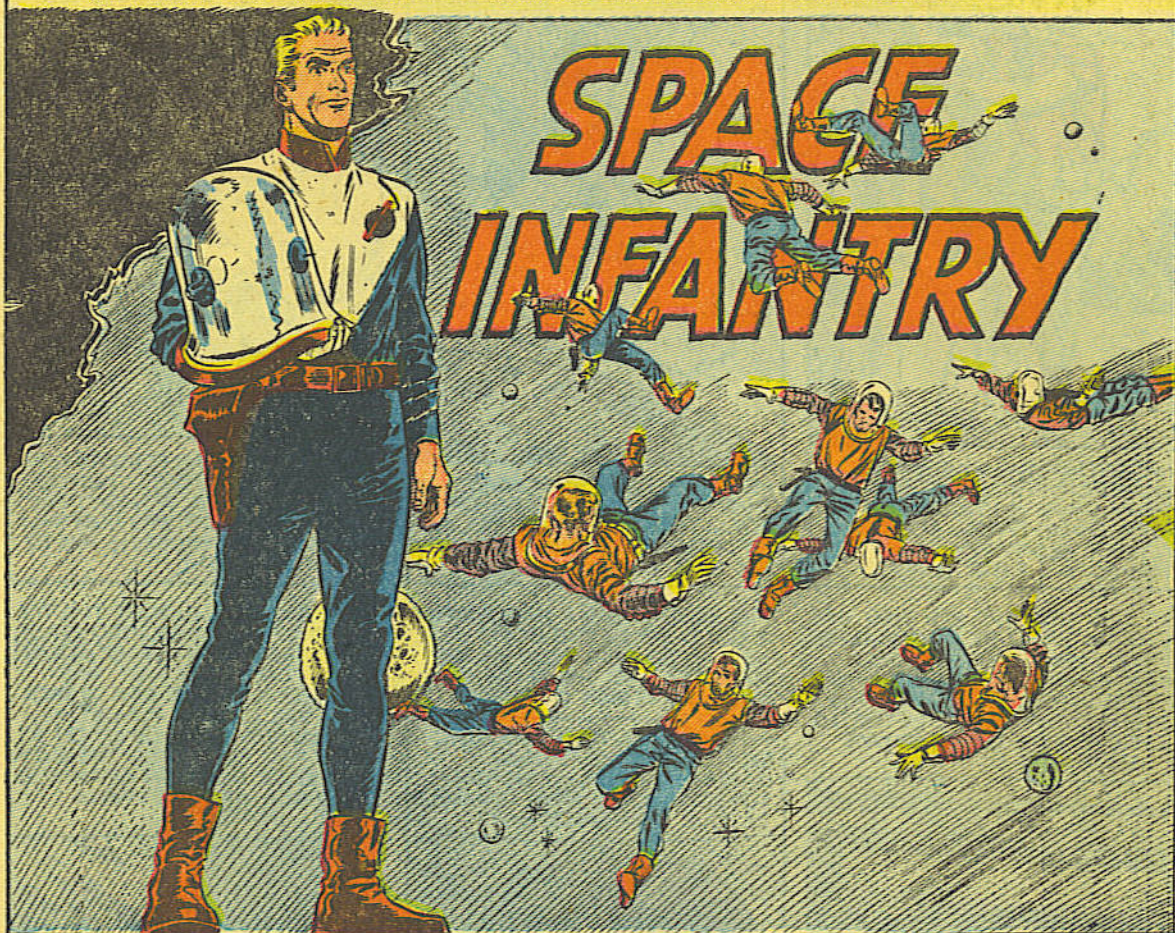
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ATOMIC MOUSE ★ BADGE OF JUSTICE ★ BLUE BEETLE ★ COWBOY LOVE ★ COWBOY WESTERN ★ DANGER and ADVENTURE ★ FUNNY ANIMALS ★ GERRY MAULMAN ★ GABBY HAYES ★ HOT RODS and RACING CARS ★ LASH LE RUE ★ MONTE HALE ★ MY LITTLE MARGIE ★ ROCKY LANE ★ SIX-GUN HEROES ★ SOLDIER and MARINE ★ SPACE ADVENTURES—ROCKY JONES, SPACE RANGER ★ SWEETHEARTS ★ TEX RITTER ★ This Is SUSPENSE ★ TRUE LIFE SECRETS ★ TV TEENS—DON WINSLOW of the NAVY ★ WIN-A-PRIZE ★ ZOO FUNNIES, NYOKA, JUNGLE GIRL

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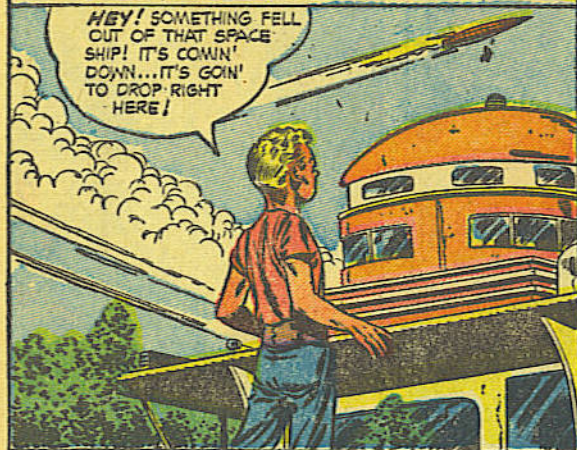
Alfred I. Sarge Executive Editor

BETTER STRAP YOURSELVES DOWN IN YOUR CONTOUR CHAIRS, ALL OF YOU ROCKET FANS! HERE IT ZOOMS --THE BLAST-OFF YARN FEATURING YOUR FAVORITE TV SPACE RANGER--MICHAEL RESSNER'S **ROCKY JONES** IN...



ONE DAY, WHEN ROCKY JONES WAS STILL A BOY---

HEY! SOMETHING FELL OUT OF THAT SPACE SHIP! IT'S COMIN' DOWN...IT'S GOIN' TO DROP RIGHT HERE!



WOWIE! AN EMPTY SPACE SUIT!



IT WAS ONE OF THE EARLY MODELS ---BY OUR PRESENT STANDARDS, SLOW, CLUMSY, AND OVER-GADGETED, BUT THIS WAS MANY YEARS AGO--AND FOR YOUNG EARTH-BOUND ROCKY, IT WAS A THING OF BEAUTY...

SPACE ADVENTURES

WOULDN'T HURT IF I STEPPED INSIDE AND TOOK IT UP FOR A WHILE! AFTER ALL, A FELLER WHO'S GONNA BE A SPACE RANGER SOME DAY... CAN'T START FLYIN' TOO SOON!



THE MECHANISM WAS SIMPLE TO WORK FOR A BOY WHO SPENT EVERY SPARE SECOND PORING OVER SPACE-TRAVEL BOOKS! WITHOUT HESITATING, ROCKY TRIPPED THE RIGHT LEVER...

BUT THIS WAS THE BOY WHO WAS TO GROW UP TO BE **ROCKY JONES, SPACE RANGER**-- AND EVEN THEN HE KNEW THAT THE LAWS OF THE UNITED WORLDS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAD TO BE OBEYED. SLOWLY, HE TRIPPED THE **DOWN** LEVER, AND SOON---

AND A MOMENT LATER--

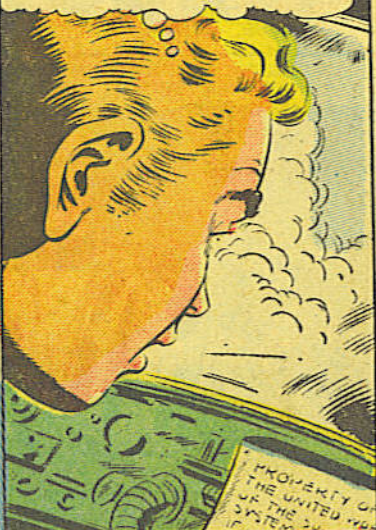


HE WAS NEVER TO FORGET THAT FIRST SHARP PANG OF JOY... THE DIZZYING THRILL OF EFFORTLESS CLIMBING TOWARD THE HIGH WHITE CLOUDS!

BUT THEN--

WHAT'S THIS?

"PROPERTY OF THE UNITED WORLDS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM," IT SAYS. "IF LOST, MUST BE RETURNED TO SPACE RANGER HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT DELAY..." **AW GEE!**



FOR A LONG MOMENT, ROCKY KEPT SCORING UP HIS MOUTH TWISTING WITH BITTERNESS. IT WASN'T FAIR! HE'D FOUND IT... IT WAS **HIS!** THEY HAD NO RIGHT ORDERING HIM TO TURN IT IN!

THE SENTRY WAS A KINDLY MAN. HE COULD SENSE THE BOY'S ANGUISH, SO AS A REWARD, HE LED ROCKY INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF SPACE HIMSELF!

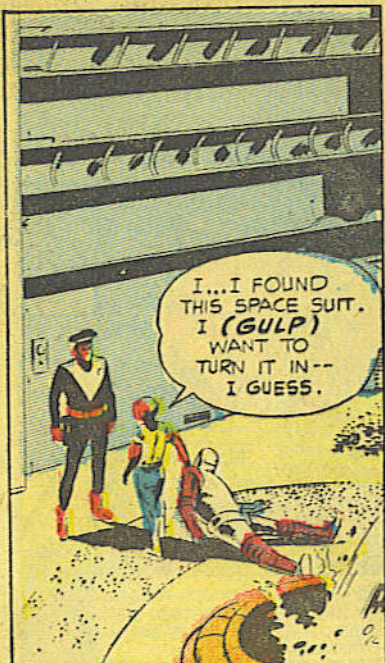
YOU'RE A FINE BOY... EXCELLENT SPACE RANGER MATERIAL! MARK MY WORDS-- SOMEDAY YOU'LL HAVE COMMAND OF YOUR OWN SPACE SHIP!



TIME PASSED... ALMOST TWENTY YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PEACE... BUT THEN-- **THE GREAT SOLAR WAR!** THE HOLOCAUST WAS USHERED IN BY A SNEAK ATTACK FROM THE OUTLAW PLANET--- **OPHIUCHUS!** OUR DEVOTION TO PEACE HAD PERMITTED THE ENEMY TO DEVELOP SUPERIOR ARMAMENTS-- AND NOW WE WERE PAYING DEARLY...!



I... I FOUND THIS SPACE SUIT. I (GULP) WANT TO TURN IT IN-- I GUESS.



SPACE ADVENTURES

IN SPACE HEADQUARTERS, THE LAST DAY OF THE WAR --

ALL ANTI-SPACECRAFT GUNS KNOCKED OUT, SIR! ANY ORDERS ON THE DISPOSITION OF OUR **LAST RESERVE SQUADRON**?

WHAT CAN I SAY? EVERY TIME WE MEET THE ENEMY **HEAD-ON**, THEY SHOOT US DOWN FROM THE SKIES!

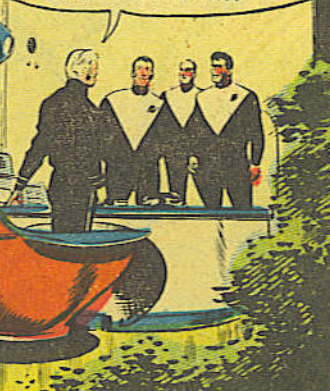
THE ENEMY COMMANDER IS MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ASTROPHONE, SIR!



HEAR THIS, EARTHMEN---MY SPACE SHIPS AWAIT ONLY MY COMMAND BEFORE THEY STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW AT YOUR GROUND INSTALLATIONS. YOU CANNOT RESIST US... ALL YOUR SHIPS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! YOU HAVE BUT **THREE HOURS** TO SURRENDER... OR DIE!



THEIR INTELLIGENCE IS FAULTY-- THEY KNOW NOTHING OF OUR **LAST RESERVE SQUADRON!** WE'LL FIGHT--WE'LL MEET THEM HEAD-ON! WE'LL DIE, OF COURSE... BUT DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO SLAVERY ON OPHIUCHUS! ORDER MY SPACE RANGERS TO STAND THEIR LAST REVIEW...!



THE SPACE RANGERS STOOD PROUDLY AT ATTENTION. THEIR LEADER STRODE DOWN THE RANK, VAINLY SEARCHING THEIR EYES FOR FEAR. SUDDENLY--



YOU! HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE? REPORT.

ROCKY JONES, SIR, SPACE RANGER, CO-PILOT OF THE XV 2. SIR...IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWENTY YEARS SINCE YOU SAW ME. I WAS A BOY, I'D FOUND A SPACE SUIT....

OF COURSE, NOW I REMEMBER! SO YOU'RE A SPACE-RANGER NOW--YOU MADE IT, AFTER ALL! GIVE ME YOUR HAND, BOY!



THEY STOOD THERE, CLASPING HANDS ON THE BRINK OF ANNIHILATION--AND THEIR THOUGHTS WANDERED BACK TO THAT DAY WHEN A BOY HAD STUMBLERED ON A JETTISONED SPACE SUIT....

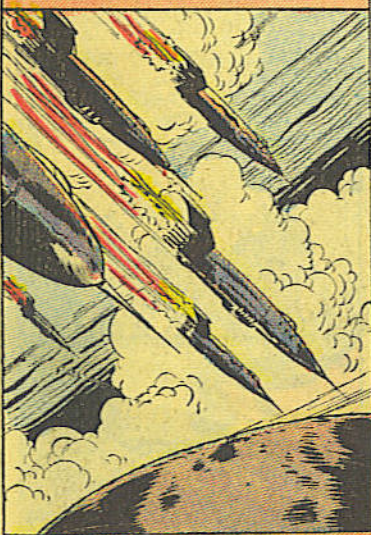
SUDDENLY---

SIR...ALL THOSE OLD SPACE SUITS...THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM! THE RANGER ACADEMY USES THEM FOR TRAINING! I HAVE A PLAN, SIR! IT MIGHT BREAK UP THE ENEMY ATTACK...!



SPACE ADVENTURES

IT WAS ZERO HOUR LESS THREE NOW
...LESS TWO...LESS ONE....



DOWN SWOOPED THE BLACK
PENCILS OF DEATH!

THE EARTHMEN
HAVE MOUNTED A
DEFENSE LINE OF
SPACE INFANTRY!!
AWAITING YOUR
ORDERS...

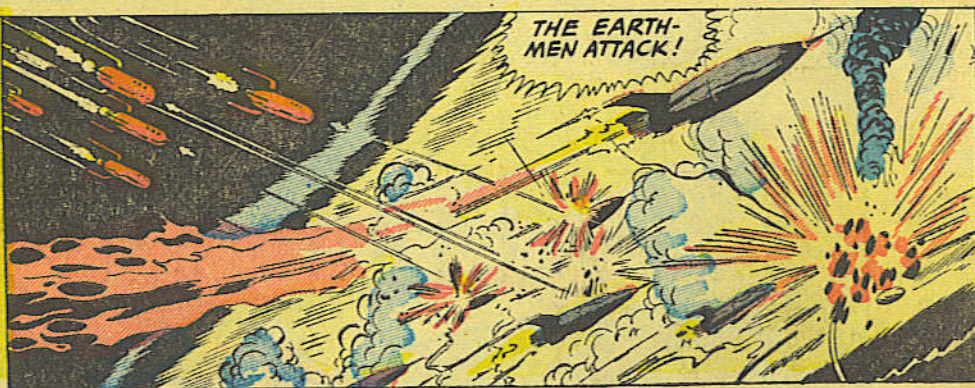


FULL SPEED
AHEAD! WE'LL
RAM INTO
THEM! WE'LL
SMASH THEM
TO SPACE
DUST!

THE ENEMY HAD EYES ONLY FOR
THEIR VIZOGRAPH SCREENS AS
THEY HURTLIED DOWN TOWARD THE
PITIFUL FIGURES IN THE SKY! EVERY
ENEMY WAS SMILING CRUELLY...

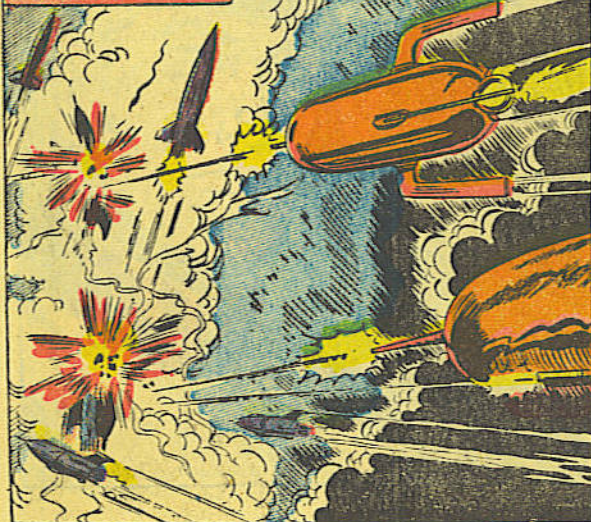


SO INTENT WERE
THE ENEMY ON
THEIR TINY VICTIMS
THAT THEY IGNORED
THEIR RADARSCOPES'
WARNINGS OF THE
EARTH'S LAST
RESERVE SQUADRON
POISED BEHIND
A THICK BANK
OF CLOUDS...
TILL IT WAS
TOO LATE!



THE EARTH-
MEN ATTACK!

THEY WHO HAD BEEN PRIMED FOR UNOPPOSED AERIAL
BOMBARDING WERE CUT TO RIBBONS BY THE BRILLIANTLY
EXECUTED SURPRISE ATTACK! THE ENEMY PANICKED! THOSE
THAT SURVIVED, LIMPED PAINFULLY HOMEWARD THROUGH
THE SKY...



LATER--

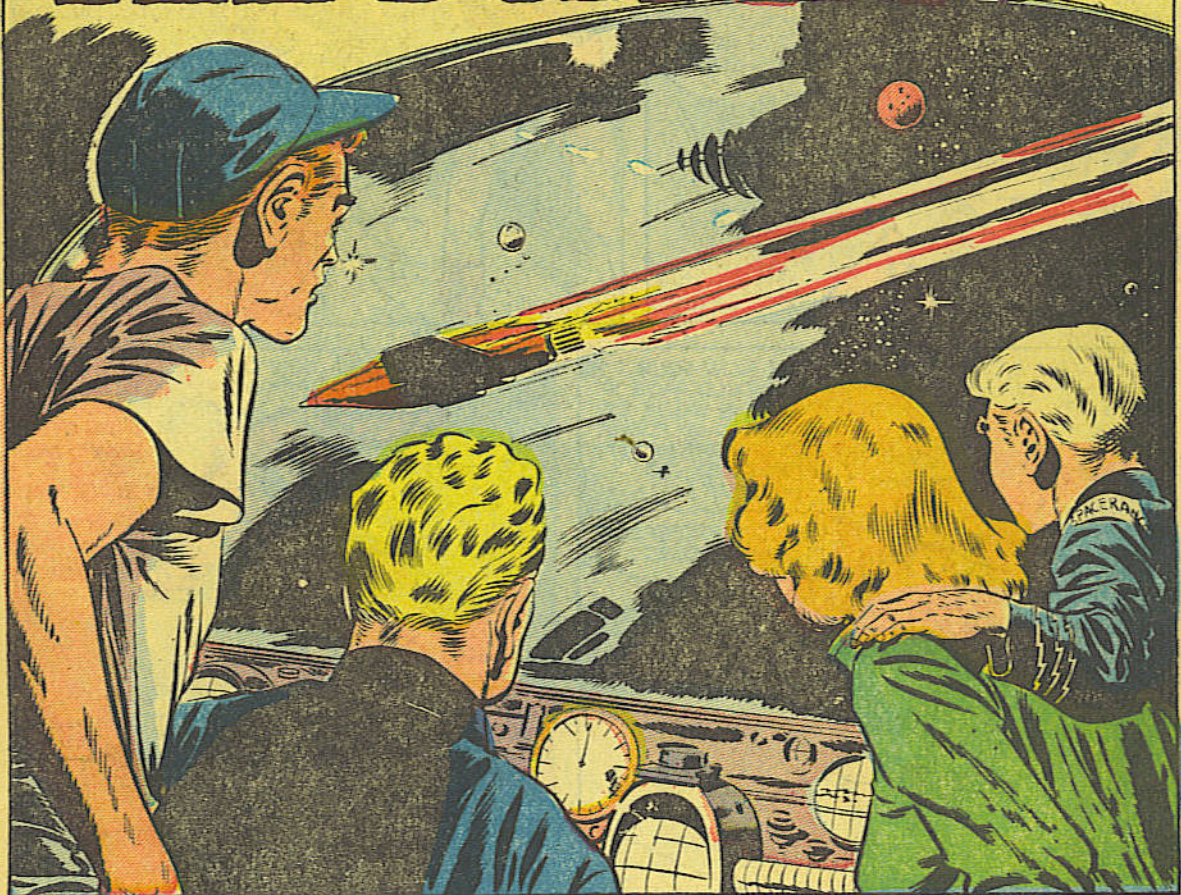
IT WORKED! YOUR PLAN TO INFLATE
ALL THE OLD SPACE SUITS AND SEND
THEM UP EMPTY BY **REMOTE CONTROL**, PROVED
AN EXCELLENT **DIVERSION...** AS OF NOW, ROCKY
JONES, I COMMISSION YOU A SPACE COMMANDER!
YOUR SPACE SHIP WILL BE THE FIRST NEW ONE THAT
ROLLS OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE--AND IT WILL BE
CALLED **THE ORBIT
JET!**



SPACE ADVENTURES

THE ORBIT JET WAS TEARING THROUGH SPACE AT MAXIMUM VELOCITY, BUT ITS GUARRY KEPT DWINDLING IN THE DISTANCE! ROCKY'S FACE PALED. HE KNEW THE SURVIVAL OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM DEPENDED ON HIS OVERTAKING THAT SHIP. HE ALSO KNEW HOW IMPOSSIBLE THAT WAS, FOR THE SHIP WAS TRAVELING AT

VELOCITY X



THE LABORATORY OF PROFESSOR NEWTON---

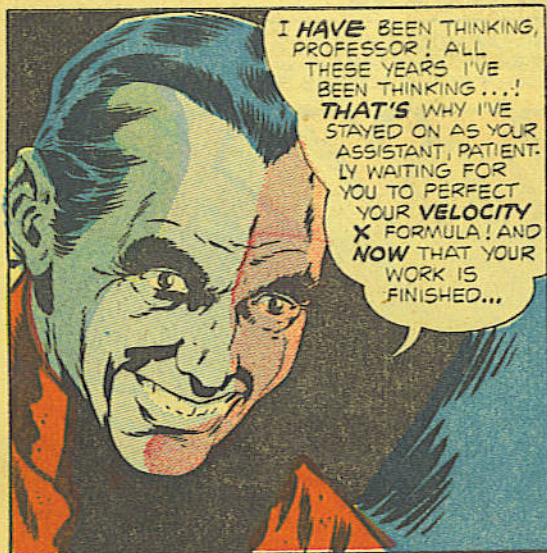
THIS IS IT, GERSON...WE'VE ISOLATED IT AT LAST! JUST ONE DROP OF THIS IN THE FUEL LOAD OF ANY SPACE SHIP, AND THE **VELOCITY POTENTIAL** OF THAT SHIP WILL BE **LIMITLESS!**



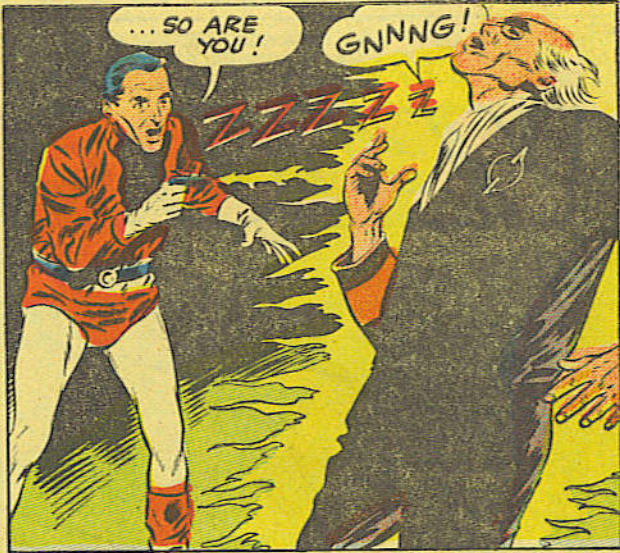
THINK OF IT, GERSON... SPACE SHIPS TRAVELING AT UNDREAMED-OF VELOCITIES.. THINK WHAT IT WILL MEAN FOR--GERSON! WH-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?



SPACE ADVENTURES

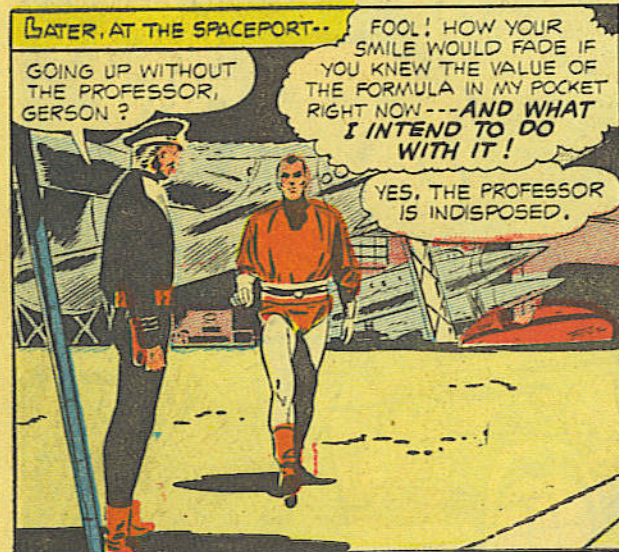


I HAVE BEEN THINKING, PROFESSOR! ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN THINKING...! THAT'S WHY I'VE STAYED ON AS YOUR ASSISTANT, PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU TO PERFECT YOUR **VELOCITY X** FORMULA! AND NOW THAT YOUR WORK IS FINISHED...



...SO ARE YOU!

GNNNG!



LATER, AT THE SPACEPORT--

GOING UP WITHOUT THE PROFESSOR, GERSON?

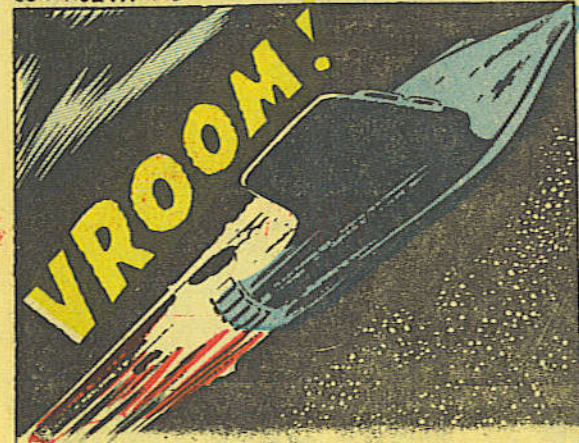
FOOL! HOW YOUR SMILE WOULD FADE IF YOU KNEW THE VALUE OF THE FORMULA IN MY POCKET RIGHT NOW---AND WHAT I INTEND TO DO WITH IT!

YES, THE PROFESSOR IS INDISPOSED.



NOW ONE DROP IN THE FUEL TANK SO THERE'LL BE NO CHANCE OF THEIR OVER-TAKING ME ONCE I BLAST OFF!

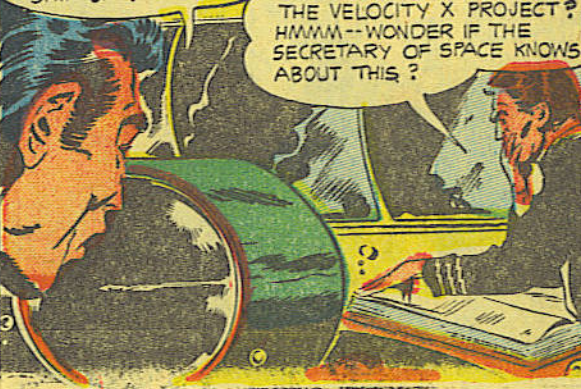
FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT, EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY. AN UNSUSPECTING SPACE RANGER THROWS THE BLAST-OFF SYNCHRONIZER SWITCH... THE LANDING PLATFORM IS MOVED AWAY BY REMOTE CONTROL... AND ---



BUT THEN, IN THE SPACEPORT CONTROL ROOM--

HEY-- LOOK AT THE VIZEOGRAPH! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING TRAVEL THAT FAST BEFORE! WHO TOOK THAT SPACE SHIP UP?

IT'S THE **ZR2**. GERSON SIGNED OUT FOR IT ON THE LOG. HMMM-- GERSON, HASN'T HE BEEN WORKING WITH PROFESSOR NEWTON ON THE **VELOCITY X** PROJECT? HMMM-- WONDER IF THE SECRETARY OF SPACE KNOWS ABOUT THIS?



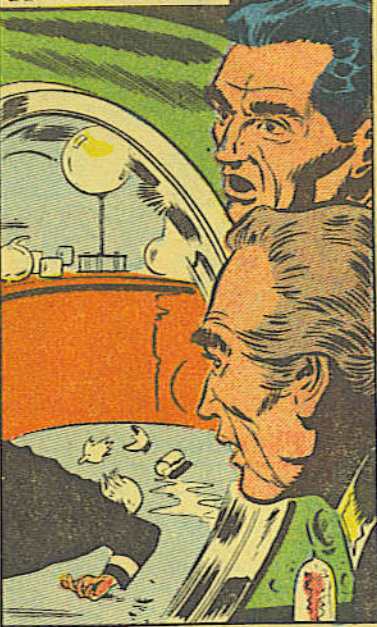
SPACE ADVENTURES

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF SPACE



THANK SPACEPORT-CONTROL FOR THE REPORT. I'LL CHECK WITH PROFESSOR NEWTON RIGHT NOW...! GET NEWTON'S LAB ON THE VIZEOGRAPH FOR ME, WILL YOU PLEASE, MARSHALL?

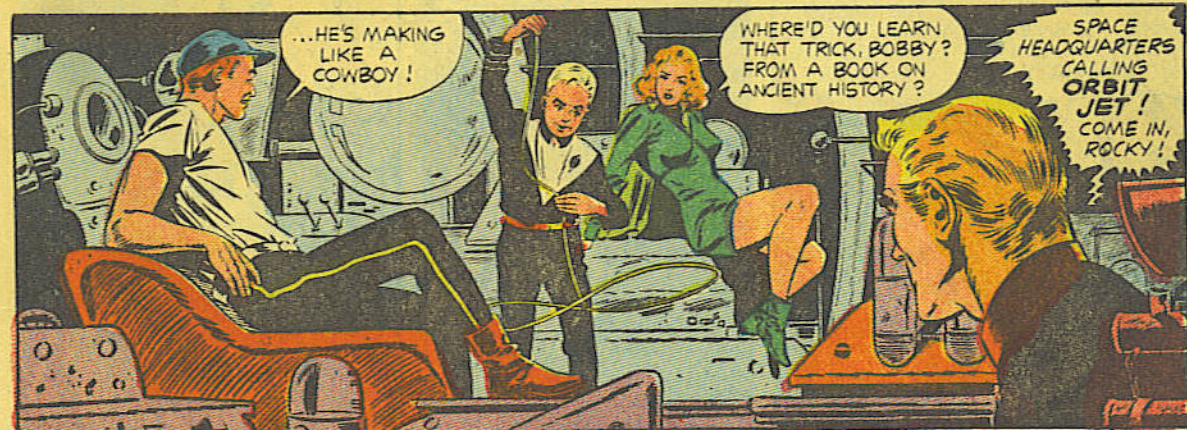
A MOMENT LATER--



MEANWHILE, FAR OUT IN SPACE, SPACE RANGER ROCKY JONES AND HIS CREW ARE CRUISING ALONG IN THE ORBIT JET ON A ROUTINE PATROL...



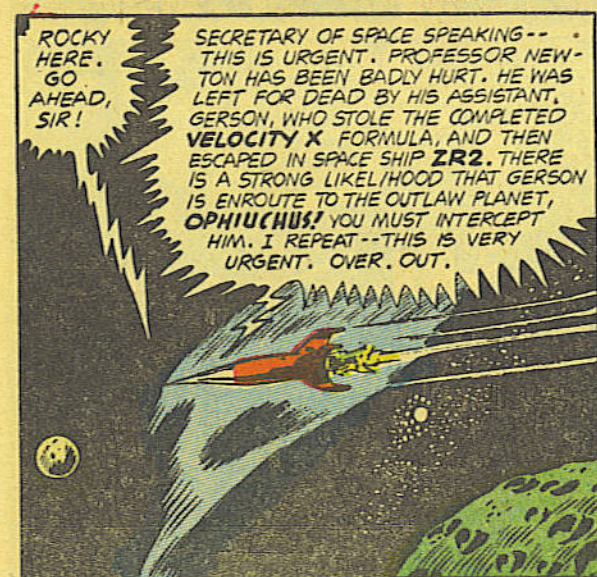
HEY, ROCKY, GET A LOAD OF OUR JUNIOR SPACE RANGER! INSTEAD OF SPENDING HIS TIME STUDYING SPACE CHARTS...



...HE'S MAKING LIKE A COWBOY!

WHERE'D YOU LEARN THAT TRICK, BOBBY? FROM A BOOK ON ANCIENT HISTORY?

SPACE HEADQUARTERS CALLING ORBIT JET! COME IN, ROCKY!



ROCKY HERE. GO AHEAD, SIR!

SECRETARY OF SPACE SPEAKING-- THIS IS URGENT. PROFESSOR NEWTON HAS BEEN BADLY HURT. HE WAS LEFT FOR DEAD BY HIS ASSISTANT, GERSON, WHO STOLE THE COMPLETED VELOCITY X FORMULA, AND THEN ESCAPED IN SPACE SHIP ZR2. THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT GERSON IS ENROUTE TO THE OUTLAW PLANET, OPHIUCHUS! YOU MUST INTERCEPT HIM. I REPEAT--THIS IS VERY URGENT. OVER. OUT.

THE ORBIT JET BEGINS PICKING UP SPEED. BUT...

ACCORDING TO MY RECKONING, WE HAVE AT LEAST THREE DAYS TRAVELLING BEFORE...

ROCKY, LOOK AT THIS!



SPACE ADVENTURES



AFTER A LONG MOMENT'S SILENCE, ROCKY TURNS GRIMLY TO THE ASTROPHONE ---

ORBIT JET CALLING SPACE AFFAIRS HEAD-QUARTERS. JUST SIGHTED GERSON WHIZZING BY AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED. HE'S WAY OFF COURSE --MUST BE THAT HIS SHIP'S INSTRUMENTS AREN'T SYNCHRONIZED WITH **VELOCITY X**!

STAY WITH HIM, ROCKY. FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE GOES. IF THAT FORMULA FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS DOOMED!



THE FOLLOWING DAY---

THERE IT IS...**OPHIUCHUS**... THE OUTLAW PLANET! IT'S QUEEN, **CLEOLANTHE**, HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO CONQUER THE SOLAR SYSTEM! WELL, NOW SHE'LL HAVE HER CHANCE...!



GERSON HAS LANDED.

YOUR KIND ISN'T WELCOME HERE, EARTHMAN! STATE YOUR BUSINESS FAST!

I'LL STATE MY BUSINESS ONLY TO YOUR QUEEN!



AT THE QUEEN'S PALACE---

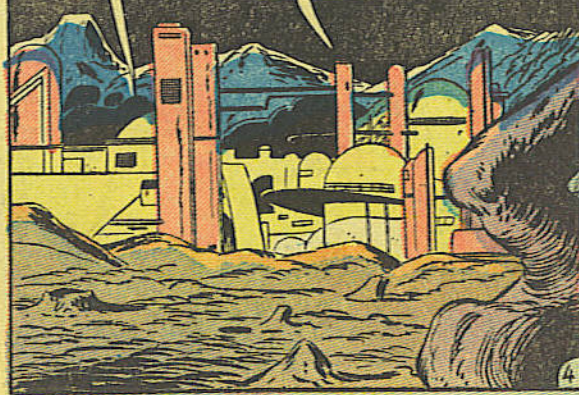
THINK OF IT, **CLEOLANTHE**... YOUR SPACE SHIPS FLYING AT VELOCITIES NEVER DREAMED OF BEFORE...SO FAST THAT THEY WILL ATTACK AND BE GONE IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE...MADE **INVINCIBLE** BY SPEED!

WE ARE PLEASED BY THE PROSPECT. BUT YOU ARE NOT HERE TO BESTOW GIFTS, GERSON. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME GIVE YOU IN RETURN FOR THE FORMULA?

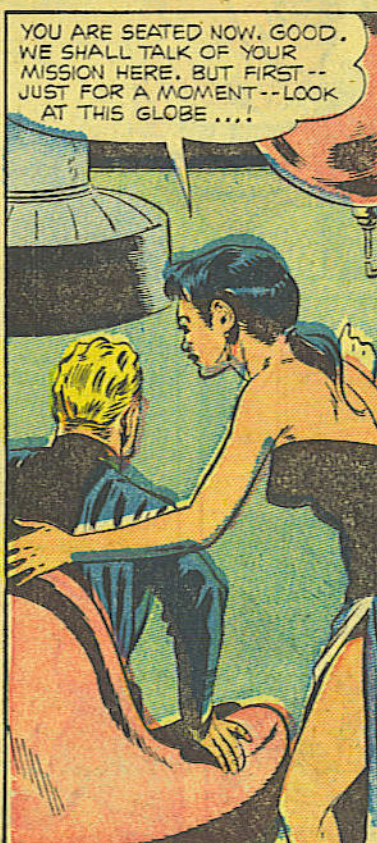
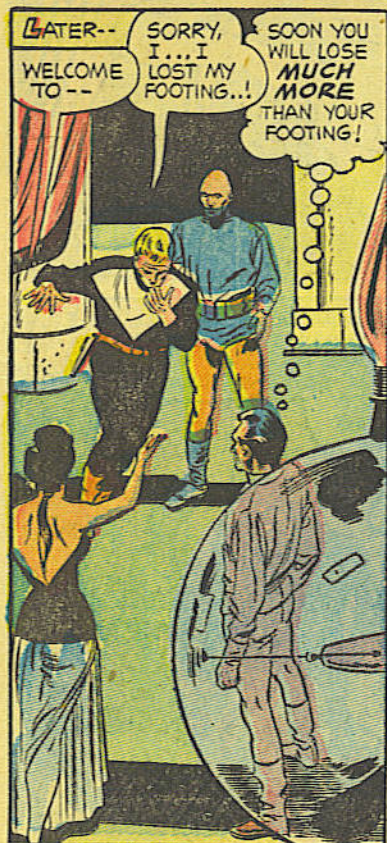


MAKE ME YOUR KING! WE SHALL CONQUER AND RULE THE SOLAR SYSTEM TOGETHER.

LOOK--ANOTHER VISITOR FROM EARTH! TRAIN THE ANTI-SPACECRAFT GUN ON IT WHILE I REPORT TO THE PALACE!



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SPACE ADVENTURES

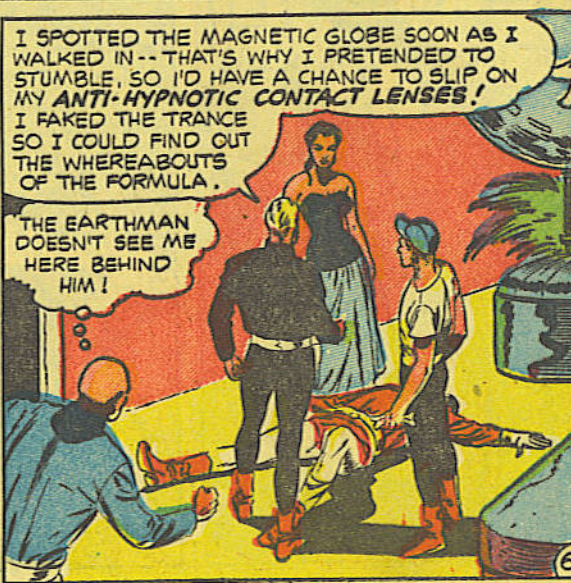
MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE ORBIT JET...



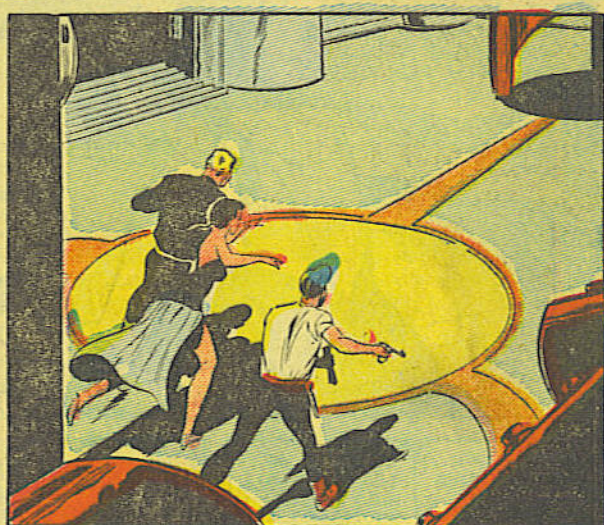
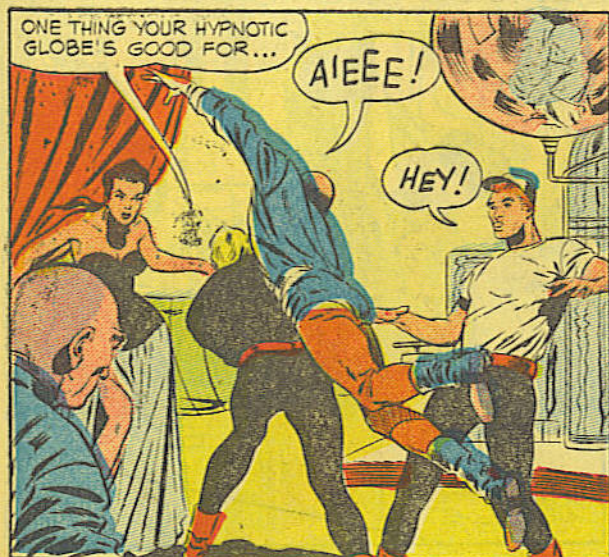
HE MUST BE IN TROUBLE. YOU TWO STAY HERE, MAKE READY FOR A QUICK BLAST-OFF. BOBBY, TAKE GOOD CARE OF VENA WHILE I'M GONE!



BOBBY, PLEASE STOP TWISTING THAT ROPE-- Y-YOU'RE MAKING ME NERVOUS.



SPACE ADVENTURES

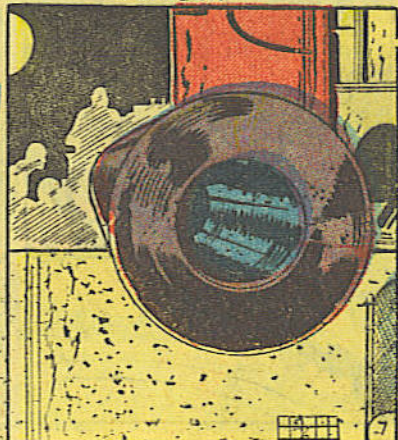


THEY'RE JUST A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE ORBIT JET NOW

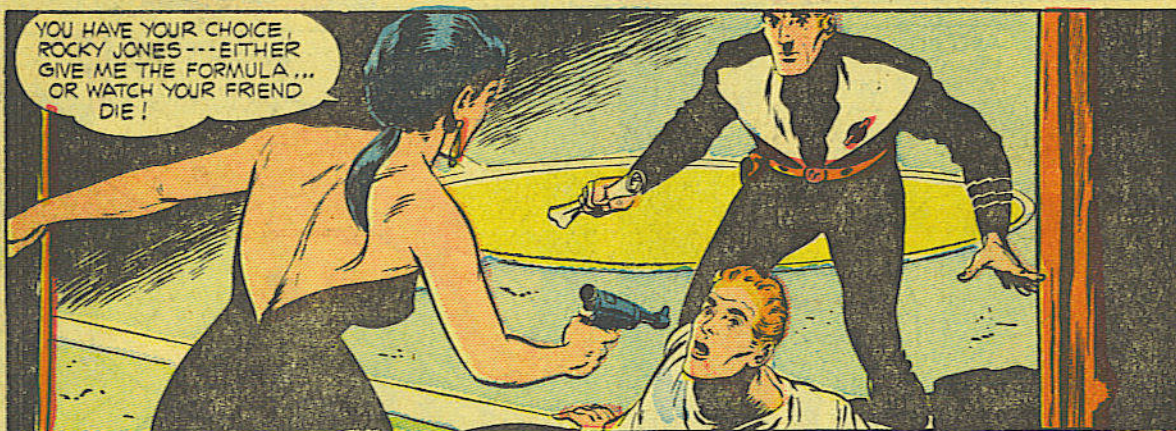
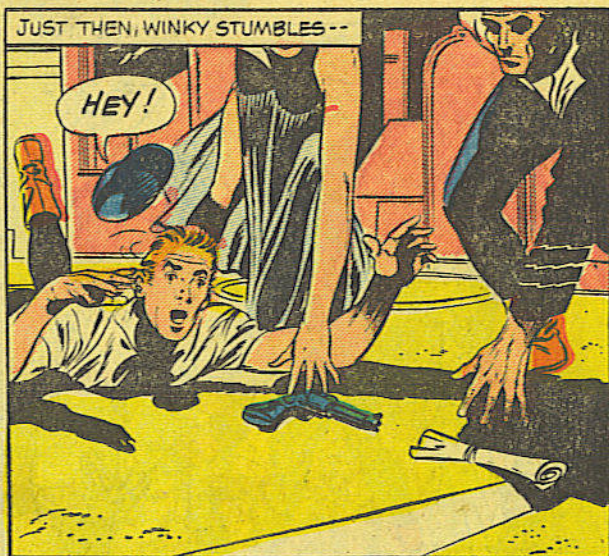
BUT BACK AT THE PALACE...



THE GIANT GUNS CREAK SLOWLY DOWN TO FLAT TRAJECTORY POSITION...THIS IS TO BE DIRECT FIRE. THE OBSERVERS GRIMLY FOCUS ON THEIR SIGHTS...



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES



GERSON'S AFTER US --- BUT HE'S FLYING ERRATICALLY!

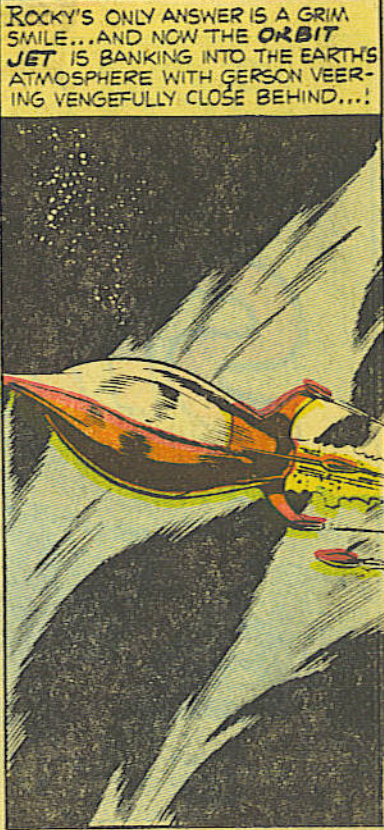
ROCKY -- WHY DON'T WE MAKE FOR THE NEAREST SPACE STATION?

NO GOOD -- WE'D ONLY ENDANGER OTHERS. THE WAY GERSON'S FLYING HE'D PROBABLY RAM INTO THE STATION AT FULL SPEED!

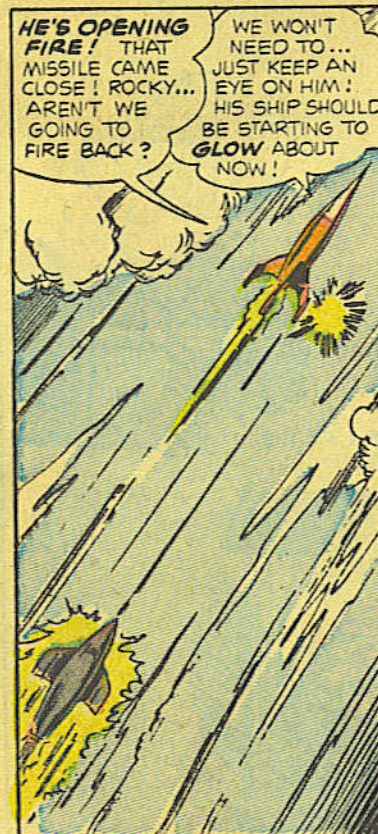


W-WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR EARTH!

WHY, ROCKY, WHY...? WOULDN'T EVASIVE ACTION BE WISER? THIS WAY, GERSON WILL CATCH UP TO US JUST ABOUT THE TIME WE HIT **EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!**

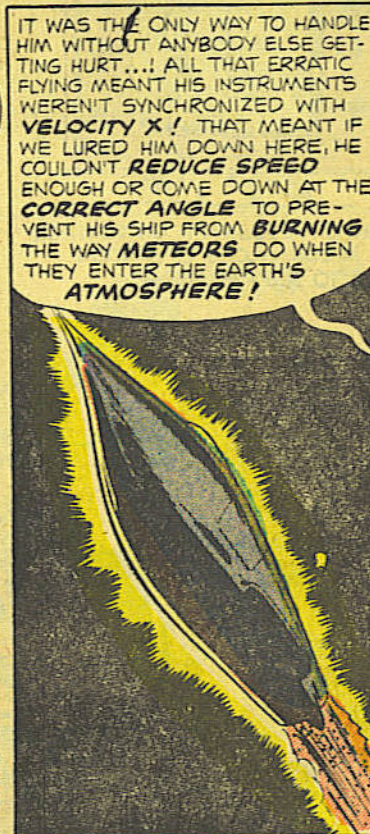


ROCKY'S ONLY ANSWER IS A GRIM SMILE...AND NOW THE **ORBIT JET** IS BANKING INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE WITH GERSON VEERING VENGEFULLY CLOSE BEHIND...!



HE'S OPENING FIRE! THAT MISSILE CAME CLOSE! ROCKY... AREN'T WE GOING TO FIRE BACK?

WE WON'T NEED TO... JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM! HIS SHIP SHOULD BE STARTING TO **GLOW** ABOUT NOW!



IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE HIM WITHOUT ANYBODY ELSE GETTING HURT...! ALL THAT ERRATIC FLYING MEANT HIS INSTRUMENTS WEREN'T SYNCHRONIZED WITH **VELOCITY X!** THAT MEANT IF WE LURED HIM DOWN HERE, HE COULDN'T **REDUCE SPEED** ENOUGH OR COME DOWN AT THE **CORRECT ANGLE** TO PREVENT HIS SHIP FROM **BURNING** THE WAY **METEORS** DO WHEN THEY ENTER THE EARTH'S **ATMOSPHERE!**



LATER-- THIS IS IT... THE FORMULA!

YOU SAVED US AGAIN, ROCKY!

THE WHOLE CREW HELPED SIR. ALL WE WANT NOW IS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP --AND WE'LL BE READY FOR OUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT

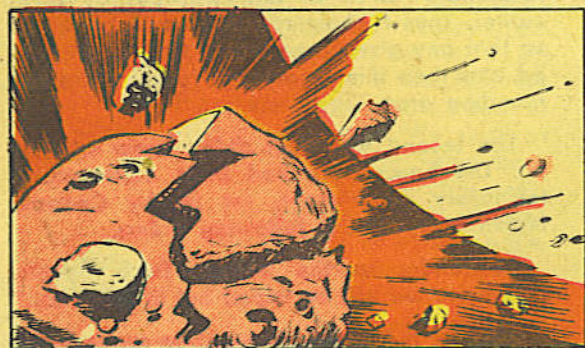
THE END

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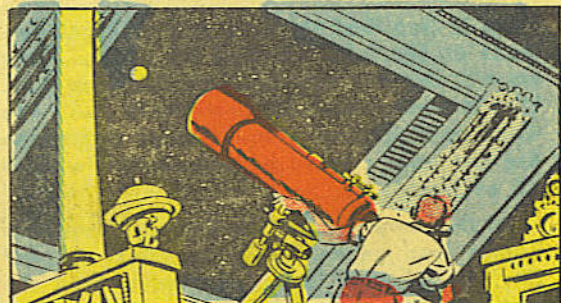
The RINGED PLANET

THE RINGS OF SATURN ARE A WONDER UNEQUALLED IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE! VISIBLE EVEN THROUGH SMALL TELESCOPES, THEY ARE ONE OF THE HEAVENS' MOST BEAUTIFUL SPECTACLES!

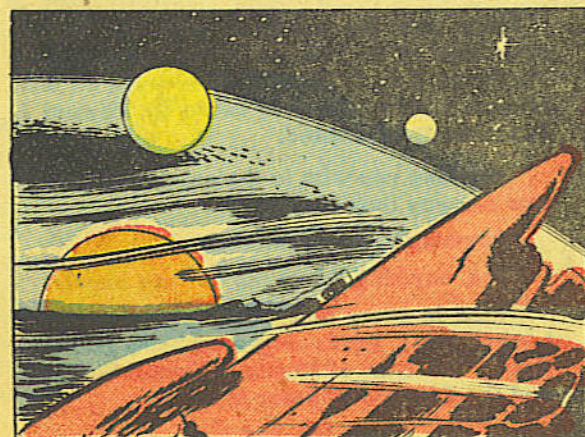
THE RINGS ARE COMPOSED OF MILLIONS OF TINY MOONLETS, WHICH APPEAR AS A FLAT CIRCLLET, 7000 MILES ABOVE THE PLANET'S SURFACE! THOUGH THEY ARE 41,500 MILES WIDE FROM THE INNER TO THE OUTER EDGE, THEY ARE LESS THAN TEN MILES THICK!



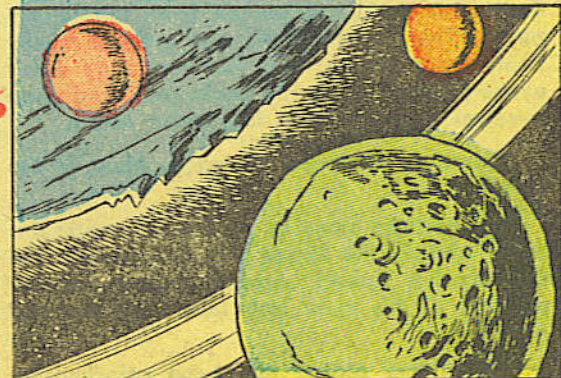
THE FRAGMENTS MAKING UP THE RINGS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE REMAINS OF A FORMER MOON OF SATURN, WHICH APPROACHED TOO CLOSE TO THE PARENT PLANET AND WAS EXPLODED BY THE STRONG GRAVITATIONAL PULL!



THE RINGS ARE ALMOST INVISIBLE WHEN EDGE-ON TO EARTH, EXCEPT IF VIEWED THROUGH THE MOST POWERFUL TELESCOPES, BUT THEY APPEAR AT VARIOUS ANGLES AS SATURN MOVES AROUND THE SUN! WHEN AT THEIR GREATEST ANGLE TO EARTH, THEY REFLECT SO MUCH LIGHT THAT SATURN SEEMS THREE TIMES AS BRIGHT AS WHEN THEY ARE EDGEWISE!



SATURN HAS AN ATMOSPHERE, BUT ANY LIFE EXISTING THERE MUST BE CONDITIONED FOR VERY COLD TEMPERATURES... AS LOW AS MINUS 155 DEGREES CENTIGRADES!

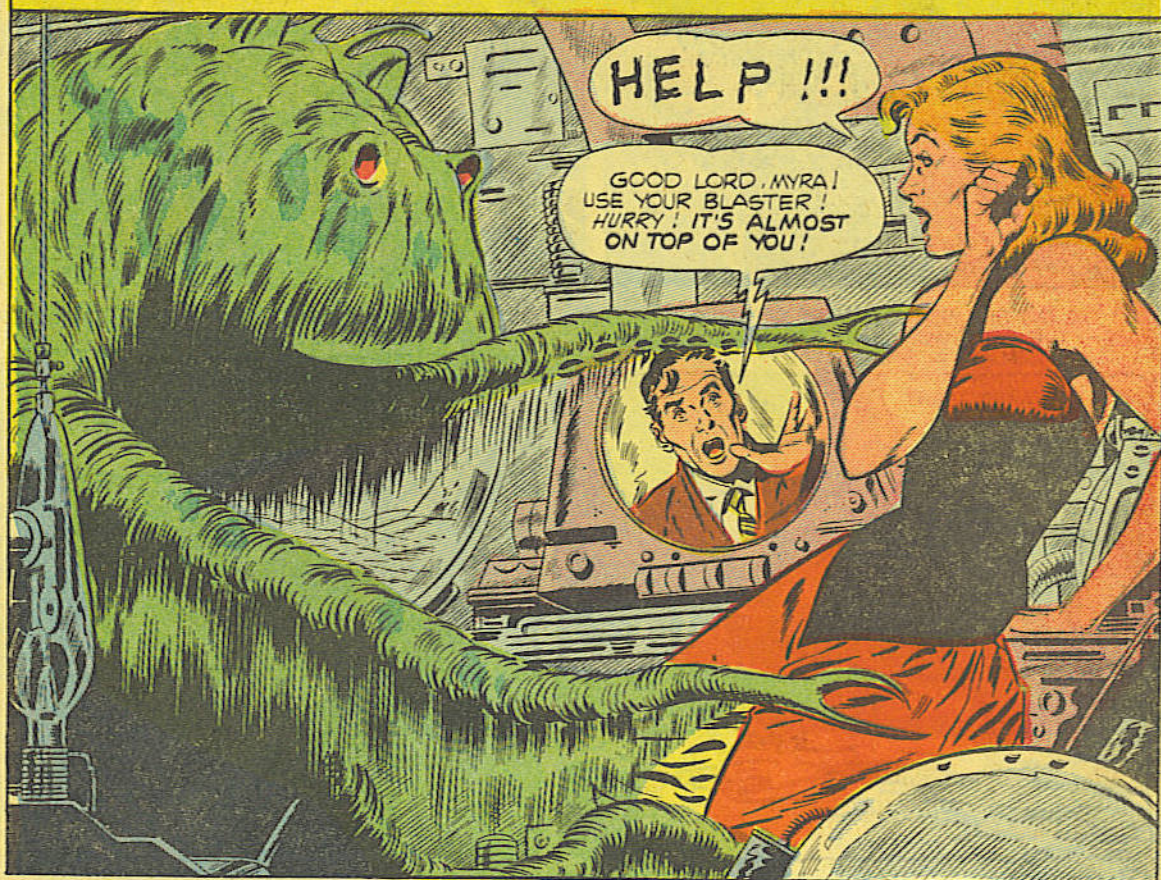


SATURN IS THE SECOND LARGEST PLANET, WITH A DIAMETER AT THE EQUATOR OF 75,100 MILES! IT IS 886 MILLION MILES FROM THE SUN! AND, IN ADDITION TO THE RINGS, IT HAS NINE SATELLITES... ONE OF THEM, TITAN, ALMOST AS BIG AS THE PLANET MARS!

SPACE ADVENTURES

TWO SECONDS BEFORE THE HAIRY ANIMAL WOULD CLAIM HER ITS VICTIM, TWO SECONDS TO SCREAM AND GO OVER THE PAST IN A FLASH, TWO SECONDS TO THINK OF HER LIFE. MYRA TRENT HAD TWO SECONDS TO DEATH ON THIS HER---

FIRST LANDING



THE ANIMAL UNDULATED AND GLIDED CLOSER, TENTACLES WEAVING FOR THE KILL. THE YOUNG GIRL REELED BACK, TRYING DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE ITS GRASP...



CIRCLE AROUND IT, MYRA! QUICK! IT'S CUTTING YOU OFF FROM THAT BLAST-GUN!

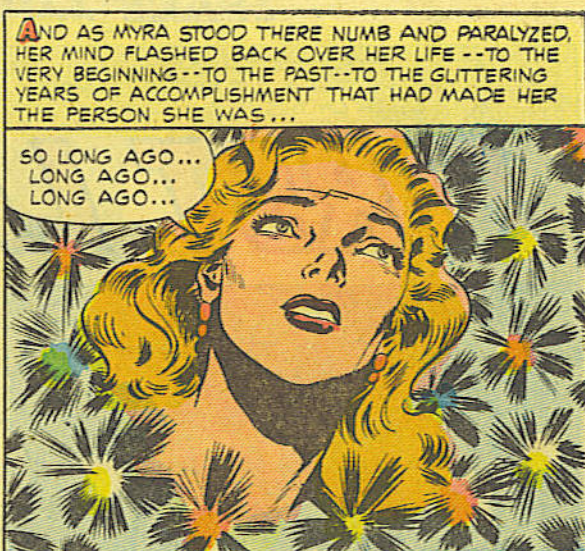
OH-HHHH....



SPACE ADVENTURES



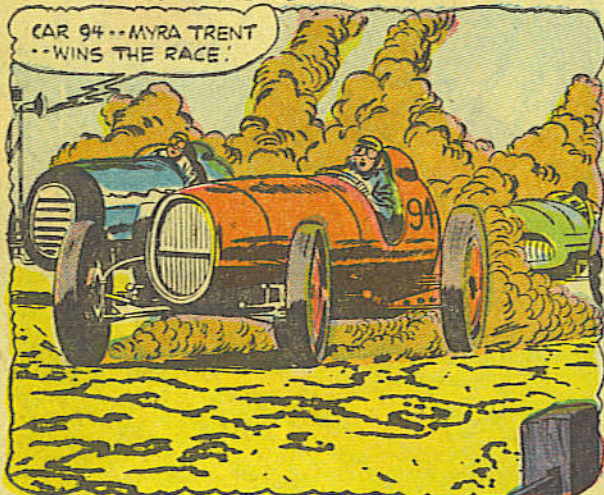
HELP! HELP! IT'S COMING FOR ME! IT'S ALMOST REACHED ME!



AND AS MYRA STOOD THERE NUMB AND PARALYZED, HER MIND FLASHED BACK OVER HER LIFE -- TO THE VERY BEGINNING -- TO THE PAST -- TO THE GLITTERING YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAD MADE HER THE PERSON SHE WAS...

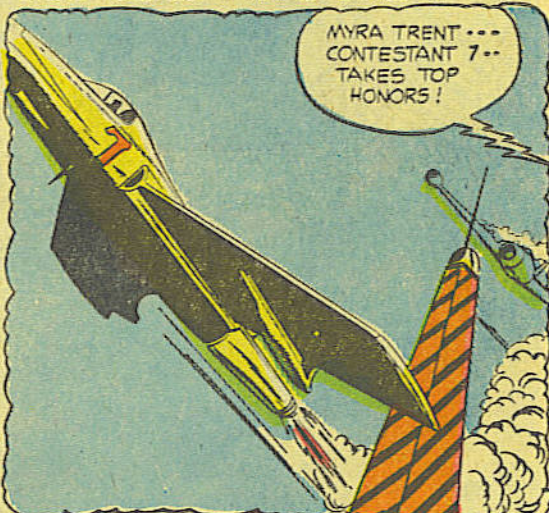
SO LONG AGO...
LONG AGO...
LONG AGO...

TO THE DAY SHE WON HER FIRST SPEEDING HANDICAP RACE -- THE FIRST WOMAN TO BREAK A WORLD'S RECORD IN SPEED...



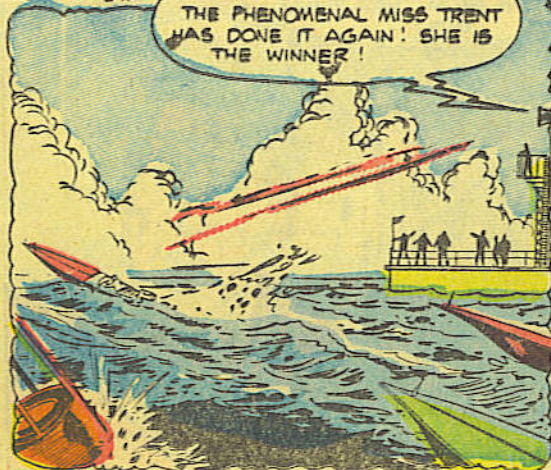
CAR 94 -- MYRA TRENT -- WINS THE RACE!

AND THE DAY SHE SHATTERED THE FIRST WOMAN'S SPEED RECORDS IN RACING PLANES...



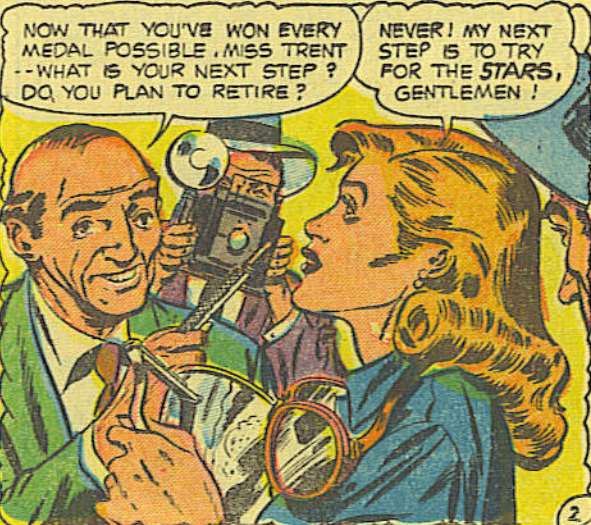
MYRA TRENT ---
CONTESTANT 7 --
TAKES TOP
HONORS!

THEN THE FINAL SPEED RECORD ON THE SEA -- THE WENSINGTON TROPHY RACE IN SPEEDBOATS -- WHERE SHE CAME IN A FULL LENGTH AHEAD OF THE NEAREST RIVAL...



THE PHENOMENAL MISS TRENT HAS DONE IT AGAIN! SHE IS THE WINNER!

AND AFTERWARDS -- AS IN MANY OF HER RACES --



NOW THAT YOU'VE WON EVERY MEDAL POSSIBLE, MISS TRENT -- WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP? DO YOU PLAN TO RETIRE?

NEVER! MY NEXT STEP IS TO TRY FOR THE STARS, GENTLEMEN!

SPACE ADVENTURES

NO IDLE
BOAST...
FOR SHE
SOON
ENLISTED
THE AID
OF TOP
SCIENTISTS
IN HER
UNUSUAL
AMBITION.

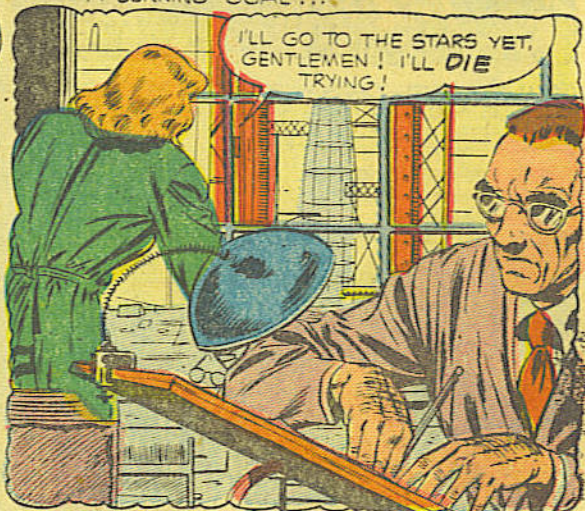
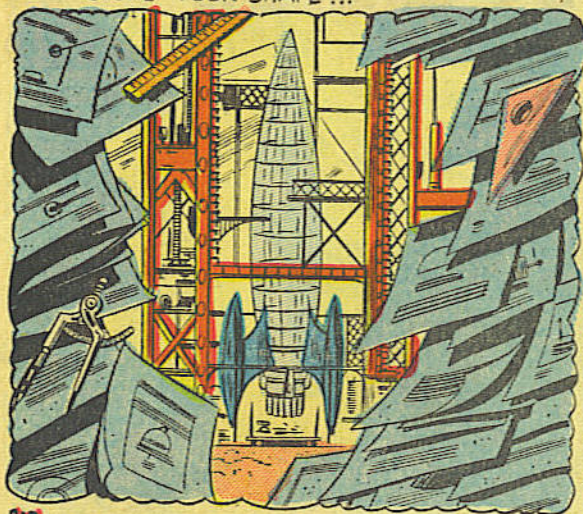
FOR MYRA
TRENT HAD
LOOKS,
BRAINS
AND
MILLIONS!

I'M NOT A SCIENTIST, GENTLEMEN--
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO
DESIGN THE SHIP THIS WAY---
INSTEAD OF YOUR ORIGINAL
PLANS?

WE'LL TRY, MISS TRENT!
PERHAPS YOUR DESIGN IS
BETTER AT THAT!

THEN, AS DATA PILED UPON DATA, THE ROCKET-SHIP
SLOWLY TOOK SHAPE...

AND SHE SEEMED LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED WITH
A BURNING GOAL...



I'LL GO TO THE STARS YET,
GENTLEMEN! I'LL DIE
TRYING!

WHAT WAS HER REASON? WAS SHE
JUST A PLAYGIRL? WAS SHE JUST A
SPOILED DARLING OF SOCIETY? WAS
SHE JUST A DARE-DEVIL WANTING TO
BE FIRST IN SPACE? PERHAPS---FOR
MYRA WAS A COMBINATION OF ALL
THESE THINGS BEING A WOMAN WITH
NORMAL DESIRES. AND THEN SHE MET
TED CORSEY, ENGINEER...

FOR MYRA--ABOVE ALL--HAD
A BRILLIANT MIND THAT
STARTLED EVEN THE MOST
ADVANCED AUTHORITIES...

AND SLOWLY, GRADUALLY, MYRA
TRENT MOLDED THE THOUGHTS
OF OTHERS TO WHAT SHE WANTED...

I KNOW THIS IS
SUPPOSED TO BE
TRUE ACCORDING
TO PHYSICS---
BUT WHY COULDN'T
THIS METAL BE
PLACED HERE
INSTEAD OF
HERE?

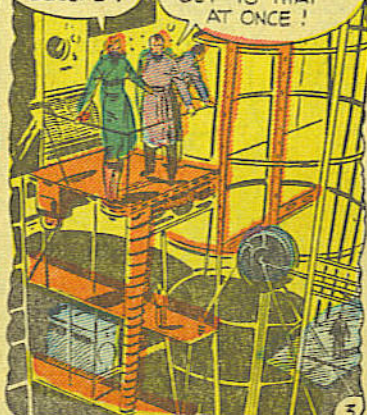
WELL, I'LL
BE---! WHY
NOT?
YOU'RE
RIGHT---
ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT!

REMEMBER THIS---! WE WANT
THE ROCKET TO LAND ON THE
PLANET--NOT JUST CIRCLE IT!
WOULDN'T AN AIR-
PROOF DOUBLE
CHAMBER BE
MORE
SECURE?

ABSOLUTELY!
MYRA--YOU'RE
AMAZING! WE'LL
GET TO THAT
AT ONCE!

I WANTED TO
MEET YOU, MISS
TRENT! I COULDN'T
BELIEVE ALL THOSE
STORIES ABOUT
YOU WERE TRUE!

YOU'LL SOON
FIND OUT---
WHATEVER THOSE
STORIES WERE
ABOUT!



SPACE ADVENTURES

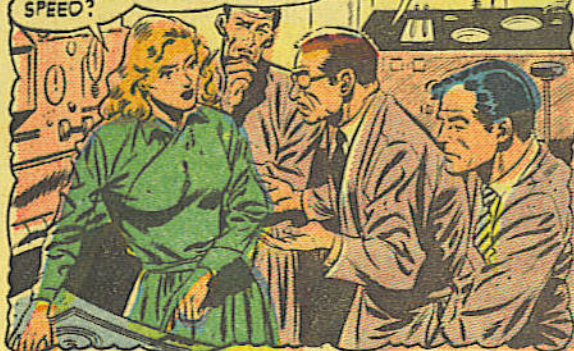
AND AS THE MONTHS PASSED, MYRA BECAME EVEN MORE DEMANDING, EVEN MORE CRITICAL OF EVEN THE GREATEST BRAINS ON THE TASK...

THESE JET ARRANGEMENTS, JOHN. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOUR WORK--AND WOULDN'T THINK OF INTERFERING--BUT CAN'T YOU INCULCATE THEM FOR GREATER SPEED?

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, MYRA. IT'S JUST NOT DONE!

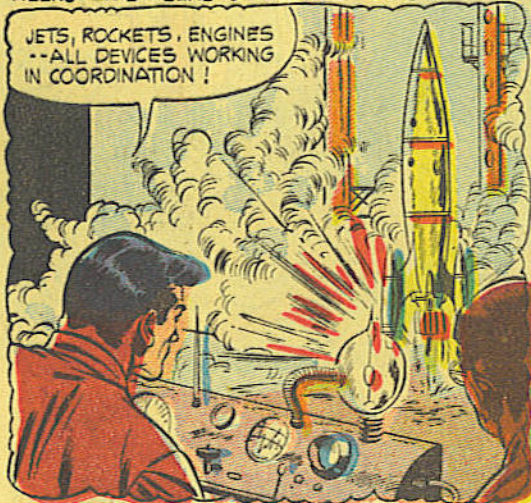
WHY NOT? IT'S MY LIFE, ISN'T IT? I'M THE ONE TAKING THE RISKS! WHY DON'T YOU LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF MY OWN SPEED FACTOR?

MYRA NEED NEVER BE AN EXPERT, GENTLEMEN--BUT BY HEAVEN--I THINK SHE'S **RIGHT!** LET'S DO IT THE WAY SHE WANTS ANYWAY!

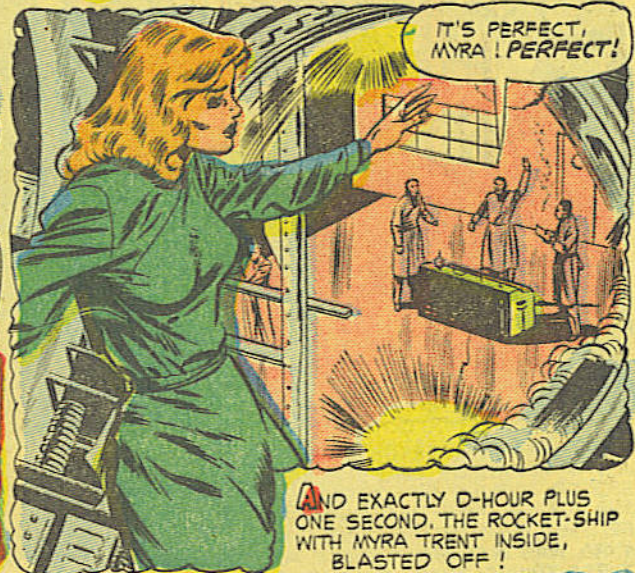


SO MYRA TRENT'S IDEAS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE SHIP. AND THEN CAME THE DANGEROUS WEEKS--THE WEEKS OF ALL THE TESTS...

JETS, ROCKETS, ENGINES--ALL DEVICES WORKING IN COORDINATION!



IT'S PERFECT, MYRA! PERFECT!



AND EXACTLY D-HOUR PLUS ONE SECOND, THE ROCKET-SHIP WITH MYRA TRENT INSIDE, BLASTED OFF!

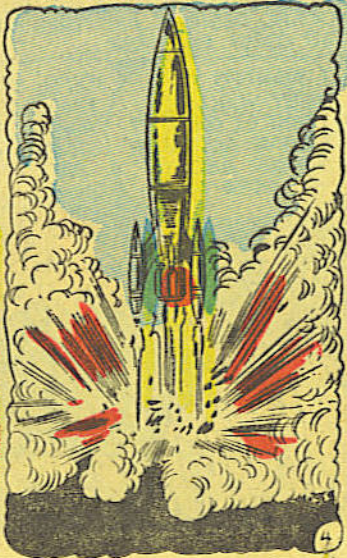
AND THAT NIGHT BEFORE THE BLAST-OFF, LOVE CAME TO MYRA TRENT...

YOU'RE REALLY GOING, AREN'T YOU? YOU WOULDN'T LET THE ARMY HANDLE IT!

NO! I KNOW THEY'RE BUILDING THEIR OWN ROCKETS, BUT I'VE GOT THE MONEY TO BUILD MY ROCKET TOO! MOST LIKELY--THEY'LL USE ALL THE FEATURES OF MY OWN!

SPACE-TRAVEL! IT'S ALMOST A DREAM! BUT TOMORROW--YOU'LL BE HEADING FOR MARS! I WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU, MYRA!

YOU WILL, TED DEAR. YOU'LL BE WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY BY CONTACT ON THE RADAR SCREEN. THIS IS ONE RACE I INTEND TO WIN! THE RACE TO START SPACE-TRAVEL!

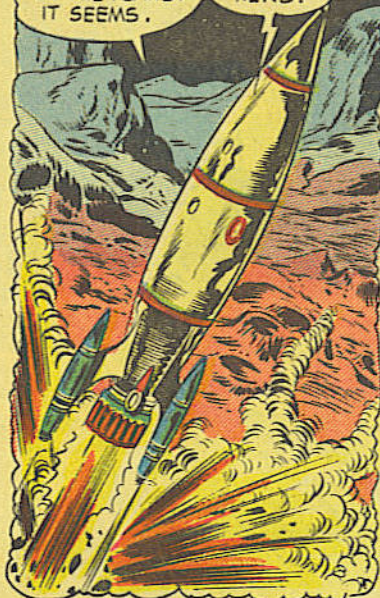


SPACE ADVENTURES

AND AFTER INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS INCIDENTS AND MANY DAYS IN SPACE, THE ADVENTRESS LANDED ON MARS.

FIRST LANDING. THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF LIFE HERE! I'M THE ONLY PERSON ON THE PLANET IT SEEMS.

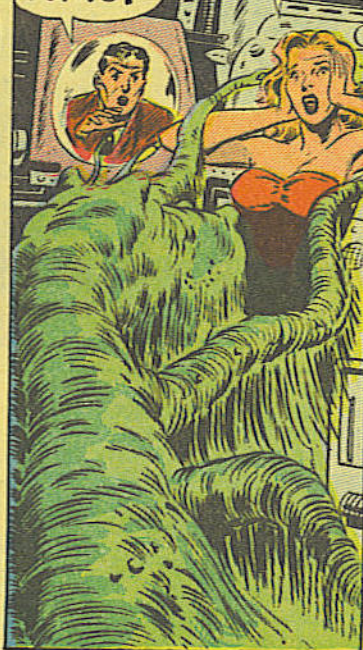
CONGRATULATIONS, MYRA! EARTH IS GOING WILD WITH THE NEWS!



THIS WAS WHAT FLASHED THROUGH MYRA'S MIND AS THE ANIMAL GROPED TOWARDS HER--NEARER--EVER NEARER...

MYRA! MYRA DARLING! NO! NO!

HELP!



AND FINALLY AS THE ANIMAL BLOTTED OUT ALL VIEW FROM THE RADAR SCREEN, THE SCREEN WENT DEAD, SHUT OFF BY ITS PSEUDO-POD 'HAND'. THEN IT TURNED TO MYRA, AND...

YOU ARE A PERFECT ACTRESS, MYR! AH! THE EARTH PEOPLE WILL BE THOROUGHLY CONVINCED!

YES... IT WAS MELO-DRAMATIC, VAL NOR!



THAT EARTH-LING--! DID I DETECT A TRACE OF ANGUISH IN HIS VOICE?

YES. HE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME. I USED HIM WELL. BUT NOW LET US GET TO OUR OWN SPACESHIP, I'LL BE GLAD TO CHANGE TO MY NORMAL FORM.



SLOWLY--SURELY--THE WOMAN CALLED MYRA TRENT--CHANGED INTO THE "ANIMAL" SHAPE OF ITS COMPANION AS THEY GLIDED TOWARDS THE WEIRD GLOBE WAITING NEARBY. AND MOMENTS LATER...

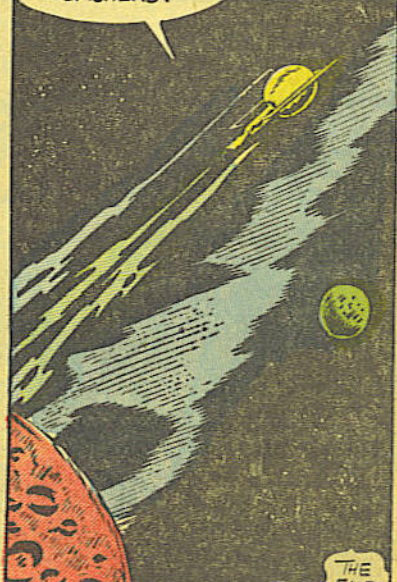
IT IS DONE! WHEN THE EARTHLINGS FIND YOU GONE, THEY WILL BECOME CAUTIOUS! THEY WILL EXPLORE THE HEAVENS WITH CARE!

BUT THEY WILL NOW HAVE SPACE TRAVEL, VAL NOR THAT WAS OUR MISSION. THROUGH THE FIGURE OF MYRA TRENT --- BELOVED ADVENTRESS--WE HAVE PLANTED THE THIRST FOR FAR-TRAVEL IN THEIR MINDS! THEY WILL FOREVER REMEMBER THE GIRL WHO PIONEERED TOWARDS THE STARS --- AND THEY SHALL AVENGE HER!



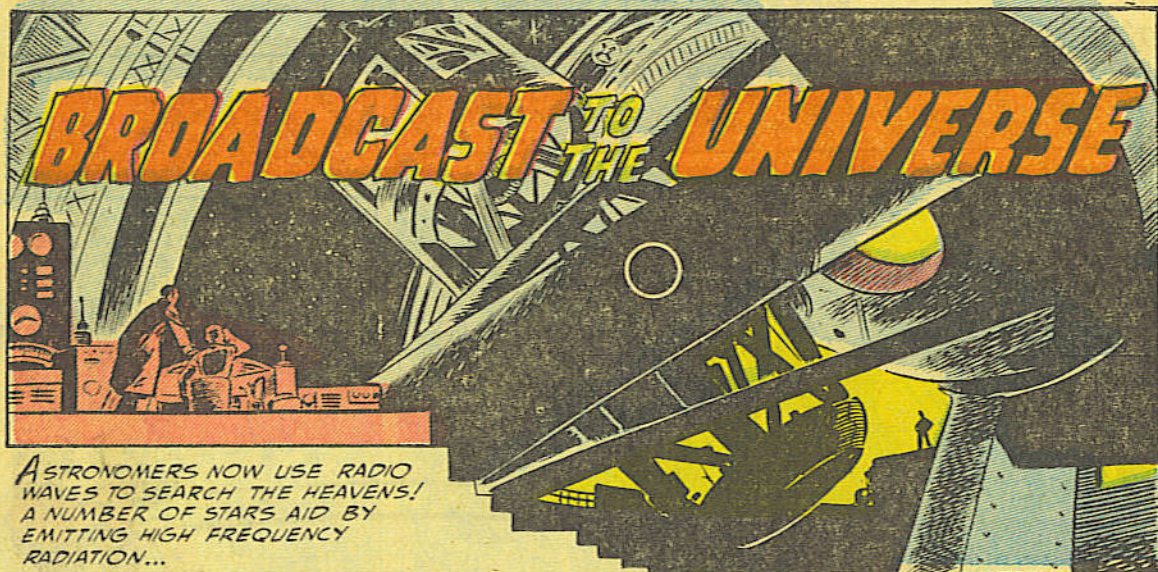
AND OUR TWO RACES SHALL MEET ONE DAY--AND THE TRUTH SHALL BE KNOWN--THAT WE OF A DIFFERENT GALAXY FAR AWAY --HAVE BEEN THEIR PROTECTORS, GUARDIANS, AND THEIR TEACHERS!

AND I KNOW THEY SHALL BE GRATEFUL!



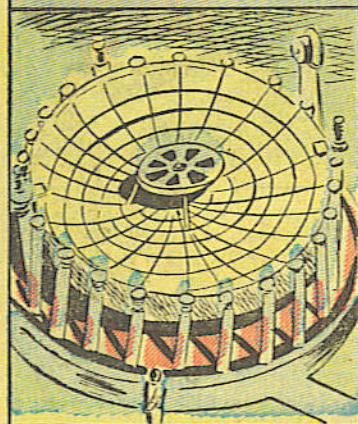
THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES



ASTRONOMERS NOW USE RADIO WAVES TO SEARCH THE HEAVENS! A NUMBER OF STARS AID BY EMITTING HIGH FREQUENCY RADIATION...

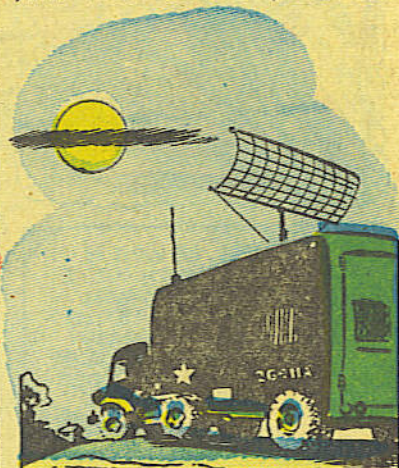
STAR RADIATION IS PICKED UP ON HUGE RADIO TELESCOPES SUCH AS THE ONE AT JODRELL BANK STATION, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND...



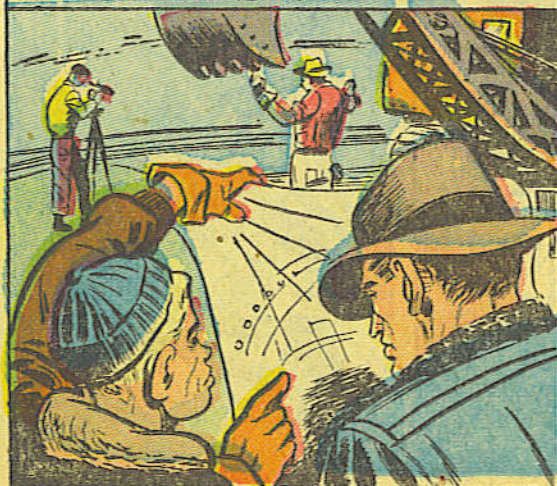
RADIO TELESCOPES FOCUS THE STELLAR IMPULSES INTO AMPLIFIERS! EVEN A CLOUDY DAY CANNOT INTERFERE ...



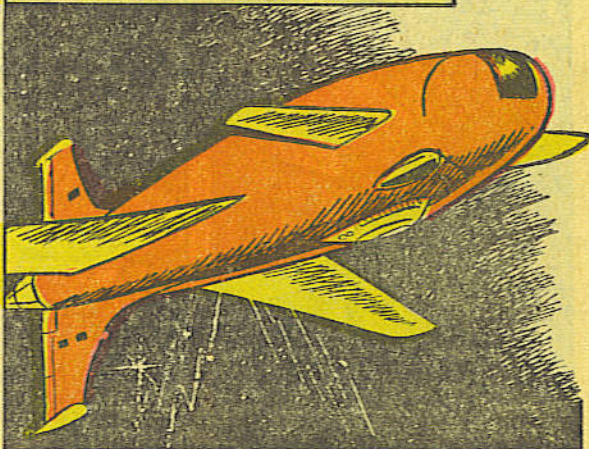
IN 1946, THE U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS SENT A RADAR BEAM TO THE MOON 240,000 MILES AWAY AND PICKED UP ITS ECHO...



PRESENT EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE TO BE IMPROVED 10,000,000 TIMES TO GET AN ECHO FROM VENUS...



A 250 FOOT RADIO TELESCOPE ON THE EARTH TRANSMITTING AT 200 K.W. COULD DETECT A HOSTILE SPACE FLEET APPROACHING THE MOON!



SPACE ADVENTURES

EARTH'S VEILED SISTER

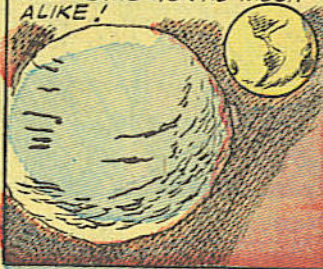
VENUS AND EARTH HAVE BEEN CALLED THE TWIN SISTERS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM! LIFE MAY EXIST ON VENUS! THE NEWEST THEORY PUT FORTH BY SCIENTISTS IS THAT VENUS MAY SUPPORT PLANTS AND ANIMALS AFTER ALL!

NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW DEEP THE CLOUDS THAT BLANKET VENUS ARE, BUT BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY OF SEEING THROUGH THOSE CLOUDS, WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE SURFACE IS LIKE!

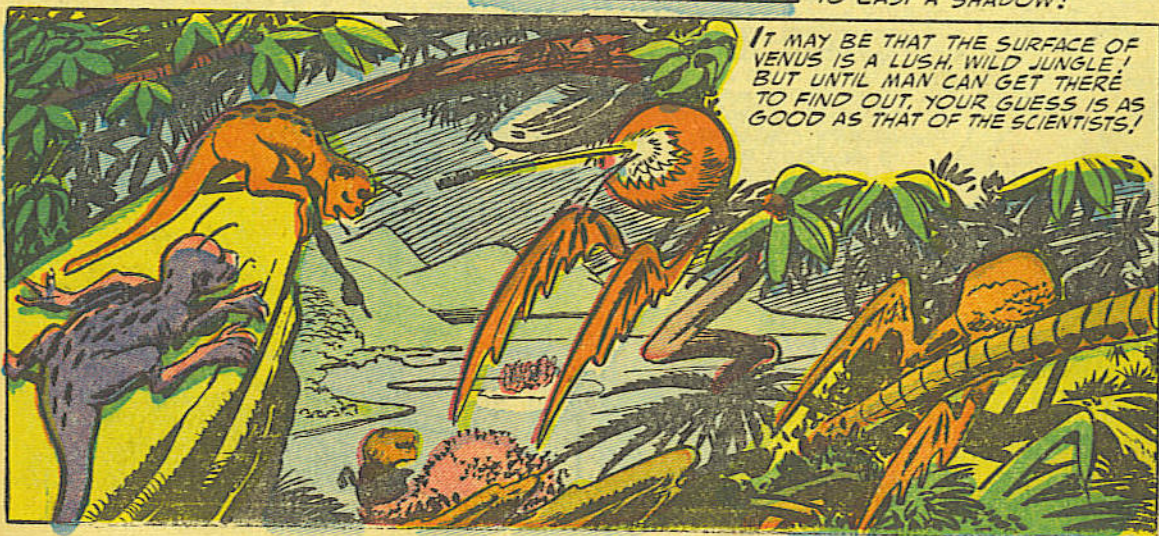


SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF VENUS SHOWS NO TRACE OF OXYGEN OR WATER VAPOR, WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT LIFE! BUT THIS MAY BE ONLY BECAUSE SUNLIGHT PENETRATES THE CLOUD BLANKET ONLY FOR A COMPARATIVELY SHORT DISTANCE! THERE MAY BE MANY OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS AT THE **BOTTOM** OF THE BLANKET!

OTHERWISE, VENUS CLOSELY RESEMBLES EARTH! IT IS THE SECOND PLANET CLOSEST TO THE SUN, EARTH BEING THE THIRD! ITS DIAMETER IS 7700 MILES... EARTH'S IS 7918! VENUS WEIGHS ABOUT 4/5 AS MUCH AS EARTH, AND ITS YEAR IS 225 DAYS LONG! NO OTHER TWO PLANETS ARE AS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, OR AS MUCH ALIKE!

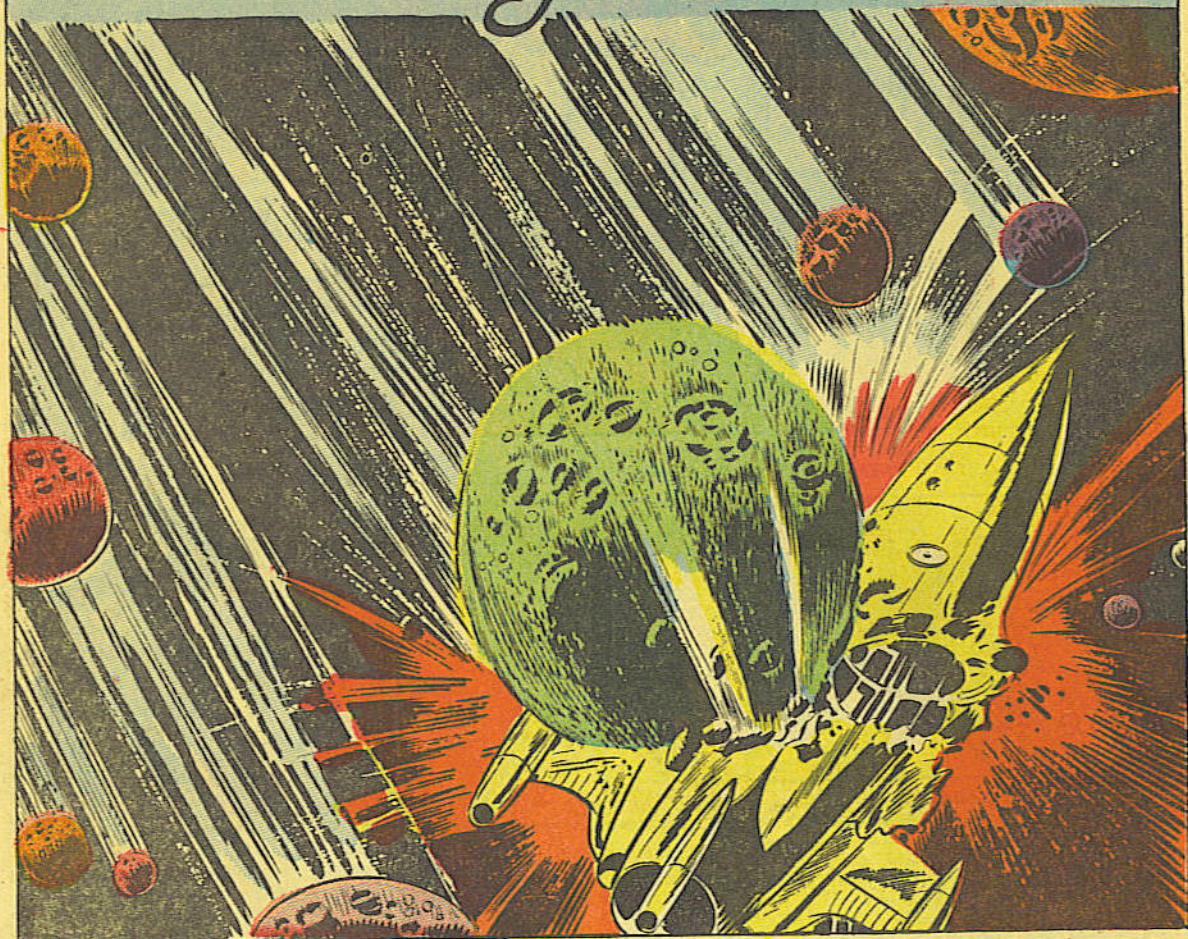


SINCE VENUS' ORBIT IS INSIDE EARTH'S, THE PLANET CAN ONLY BE SEEN IN EVENING OR MORNING... NEVER AT MIDNIGHT! EXCEPT FOR THE SUN AND MOON, IT IS THE BRIGHTEST OBJECT NORMALLY SEEN IN THE HEAVENS! UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS, VENUS SHINES BRIGHTLY ENOUGH TO CAST A SHADOW!



IT MAY BE THAT THE SURFACE OF VENUS IS A LUSH, WILD JUNGLE! BUT UNTIL MAN CAN GET THERE TO FIND OUT, YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS THAT OF THE SCIENTISTS!

Too Many Meteors!



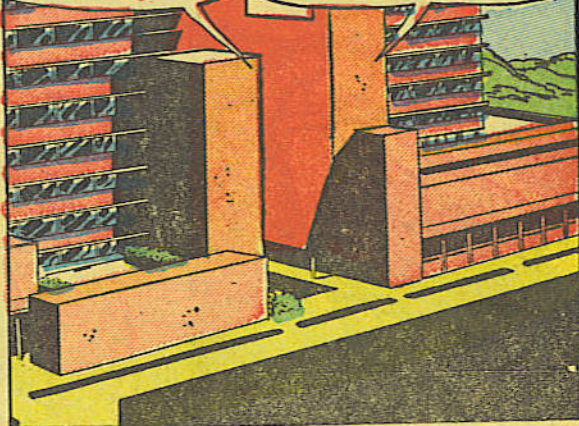
THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF SPACE ...

SPACE COMMANDER
ROCKY JONES
REPORTING, SIR.

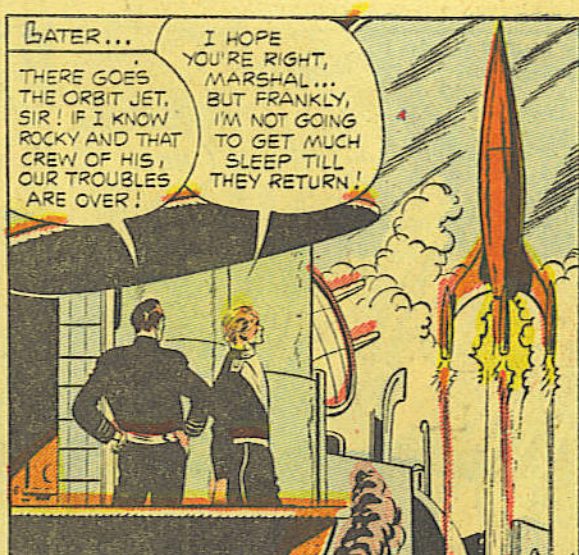
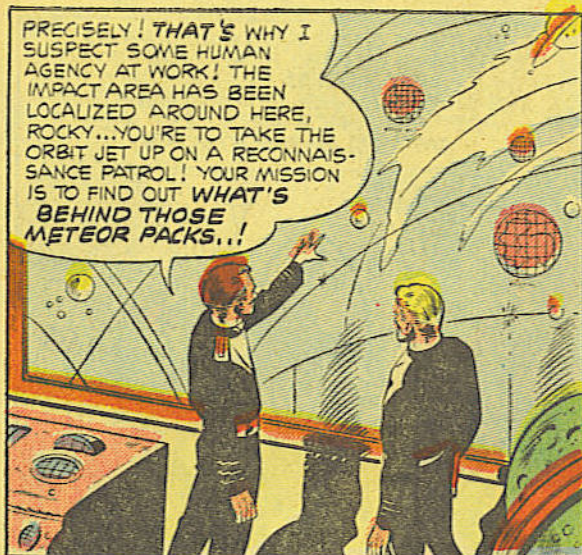
AT EASE, ROCKY. NOW LISTEN
CLOSELY WHILE I BRIEF YOU
ON WHAT MAY WELL BE YOUR
MOST IMPORTANT AND DANGER-
OUS MISSION...! WE'VE KEPT
THE NEWS UNDER WRAPS ---
BUT THE FACT IS THAT INTER-
PLANETARY COMMERCE
IS ALMOST AT A
STANDSTILL!

IN THE PAST MONTH,
ROCKY, THIRTY-SIX
CARGO SHIPS HAVE
BEEN WRECKED BY
HUGE METEORS!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
SIR--METEORS BIG ENOUGH
TO WRECK SPACE SHIPS
HAVE NEVER APPEARED
IN SUCH BUNCHES BEFORE!



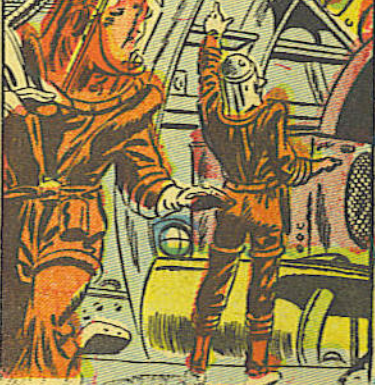
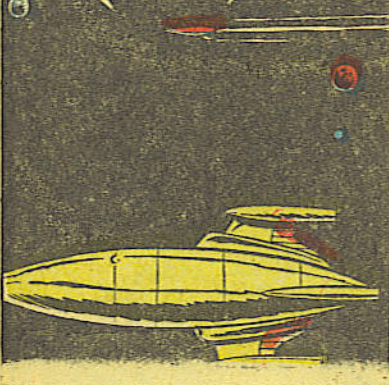
SPACE ADVENTURES



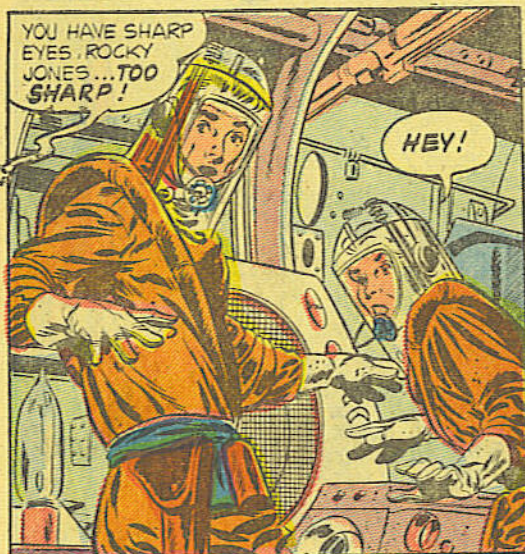
ROCKY TAKES BOBBY ALONG ON THE ROUTINE CHECK--



INSIDE THE DERELICT-- HMMM-- SOMETHING



SPACE ADVENTURES



YOU HAVE SHARP EYES, ROCKY JONES... TOO SHARP!

HEY!

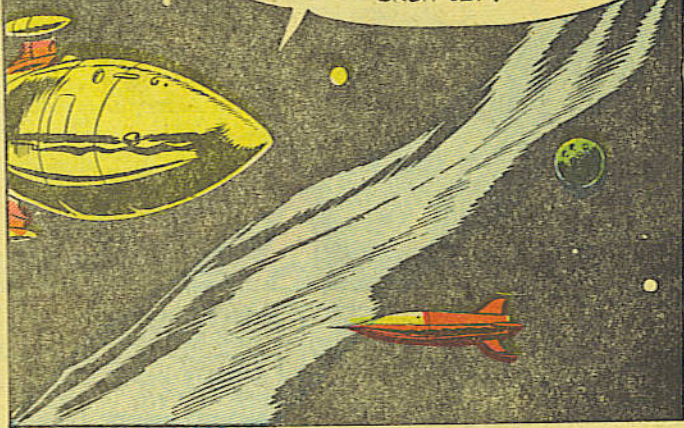
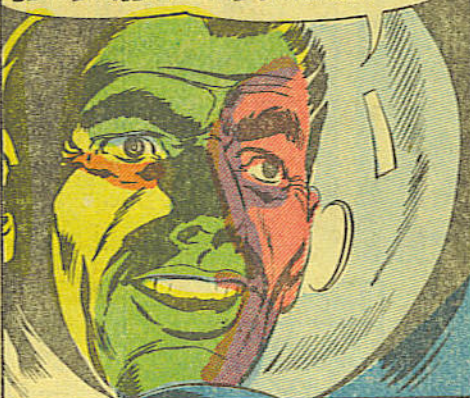


THOSE RIVETS ON THE FALSE BULKHEAD BEHIND WHICH WE WERE HIDING, CAME FROM OUR HOME PLANET, FORNAX! WE HAVE BEEN USING THIS SHIP AS A DISGUISED OBSERVATION POST FOR SPACE ARTILLERY SHELLS SHAPED LIKE METEORS!

OUR PLAN IS TO DISRUPT TOTALLY ALL CARGO TRAFFIC OF THE UNITED WORLDS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM! IT FOLLOWS THAT YOUR OUTPOSTS, WEAKENED BY LACK OF SUPPLIES, WILL FALL TO OUR RAIDING PARTIES, ONE BY ONE --AND FORNAX SHALL BE THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE!

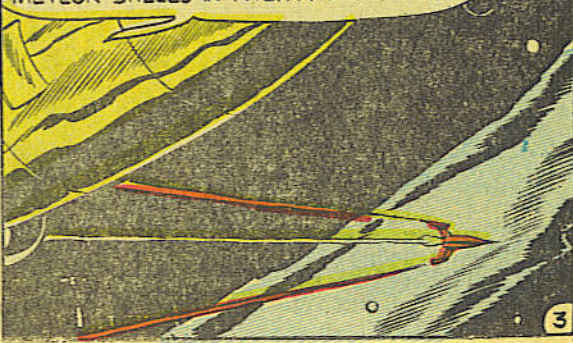
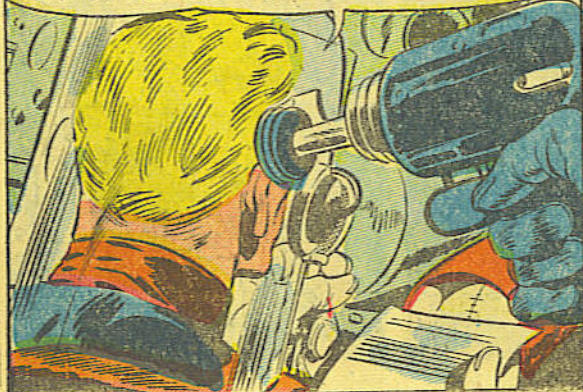
PRETTY SLICK, BUT WHY LET US IN ON YOUR PLAN?

BECAUSE NEITHER YOU TWO NOR ANYBODY ELSE WILL LIVE TO WARN OTHERS! NOW APPROACH THE ASTRAPHONE, ROCKY JONES ---AND READ THIS PREPARED MESSAGE TO YOUR CREW ON THE ORBIT JET!

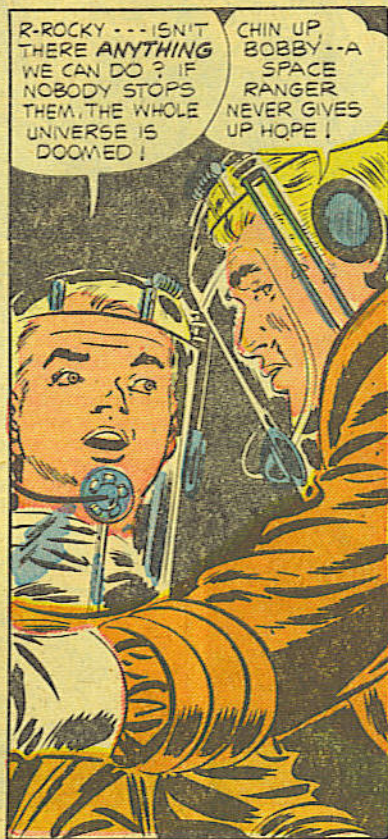
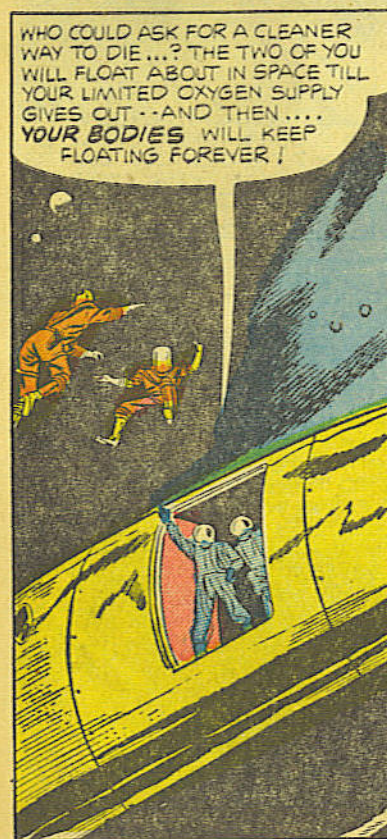
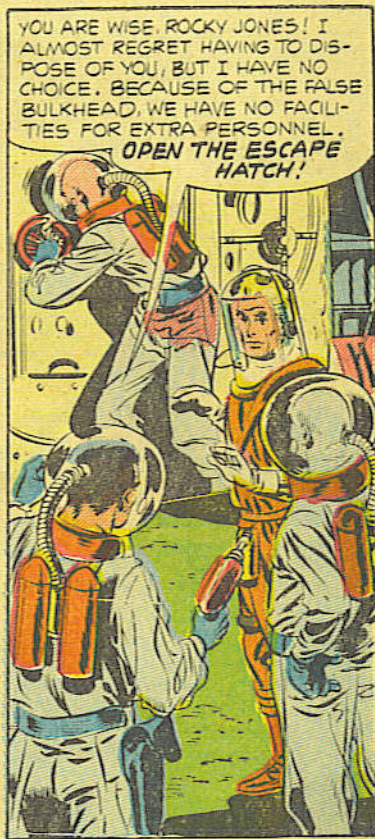
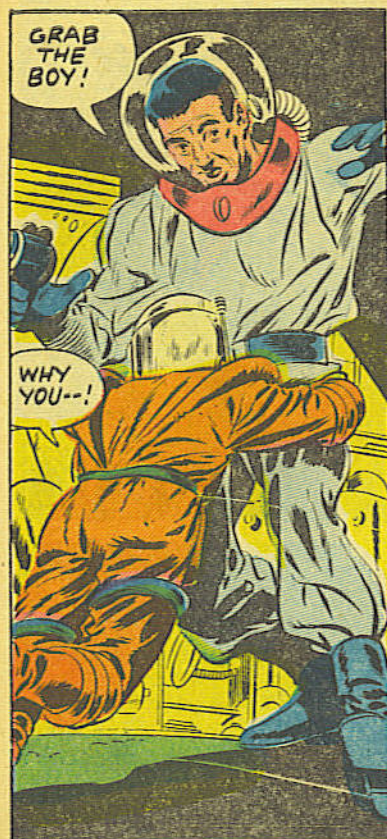


ORBIT JET, THIS IS SPACE COMMANDER ROCKY JONES...! HEAR THIS --- I AND BOBBY ARE REMAINING ON THE DERELICT. YOU ARE TO TURN AROUND AND PROCEED AT MAXIMUM SPEED BY THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE TO SPACE STATION Z2. THERE YOU ARE TO PICK UP A TOW SHIP AND RETURN HERE AT ONCE. THAT IS ALL. OVER. OUT.

THEY'VE TURNED ABOUT...AND THAT'S THE LAST YOU'LL EVER SEE OF THEM, ROCKY JONES! FOR MAXIMUM SPEED ON THE DIRECT COURSE TO SPACE STATION Z2 MEANS THAT IN EXACTLY TWENTY MINUTES THEY WILL BE CRUISING ALONG THIS PLANE HERE. SEE IT ON THE MAP...? AND EVEN NOW MY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER IS CALLING BACK TO THE FORNAX ARTILLERY CENTER TO SATURATE THAT PLANE WITH METEOR-SHELLS IN TWENTY MINUTES!

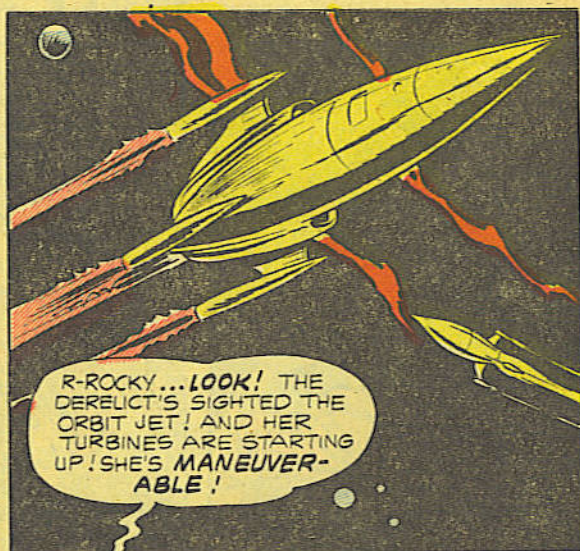


SPACE ADVENTURES



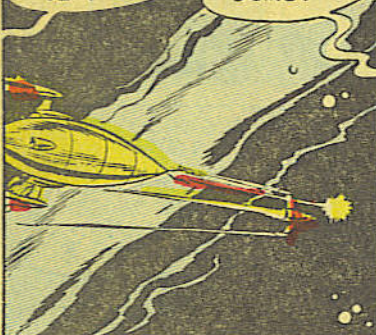
SPACE ADVENTURES

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE WHENEVER SPACE RANGER FORCES ARE SEPARATED, BOBBY... THE PEN RADIO CLIPPED ON MY POCKET WAS WORKING ALL THE TIME WE WERE IN THE FAKE DERELICT--AND WINKY AND VENA HEARD EVERY WORD THAT WAS SAID!



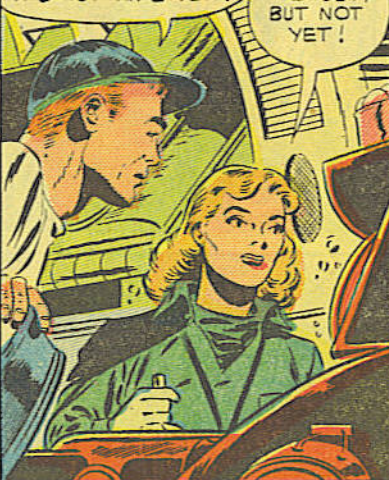
R-ROCKY...LOOK! THE DERELICT'S SIGHTED THE ORBIT JET! AND HER TURBINES ARE STARTING UP! SHE'S MANEUVERABLE!

WINKY'S TURNED BACK AGAIN...THE DERELICT'S ON HIS TAIL! SHE'S FIRING! OH GOSH, ROCKY--WHY COULDN'T IT BE YOU AT THE CONTROLS OF THE ORBIT JET?

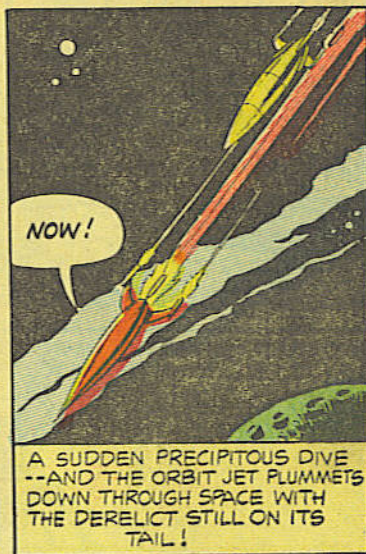


NO USE WISHING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE, BOBBY--ALL WE CAN HOPE IS THAT WINKY AND VENA KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

THAT ONE JUST MISSED US, VENA! YOU SURE IT'S NOT TIME YET?



NOT YET, WINKY... ALMOST, BUT NOT YET!

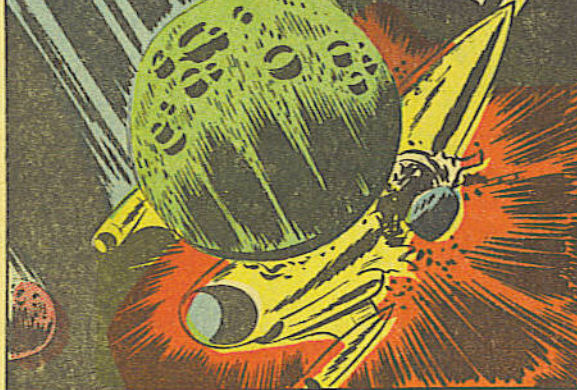


NOW!

A SUDDEN PRECIPITOUS DIVE--AND THE ORBIT JET PLUMMETS DOWN THROUGH SPACE WITH THE DERELICT STILL ON ITS TAIL!

BUT THEN---

KRASSH



LATER--

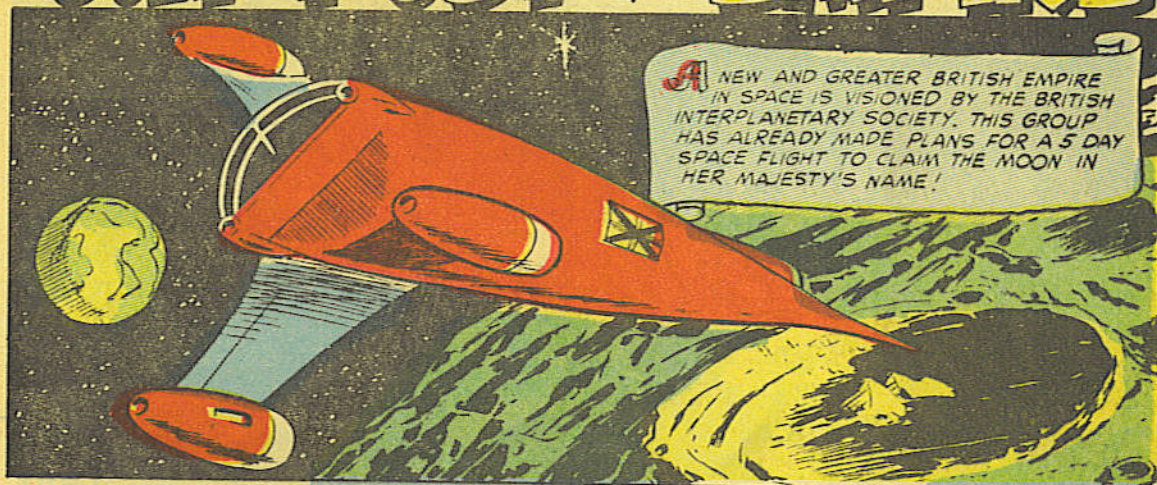
DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED BOBBY...? VENA CHARTED A PURSUIT COURSE THAT LED THE ENEMY RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF THEIR OWN METEOR-SHELLS--AND FOR TWENTY MINUTES WINKY LET THEM STAY SO CLOSE ON THE ORBIT JET'S TAIL, THAT THEY NEVER HAD TIME TO THINK WHAT THEY WERE FLYING INTO!

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I SURE HAVE A LOT TO LEARN BEFORE I'LL EVER GET TO BE AN ON-THE-BEAM SPACE RANGER!



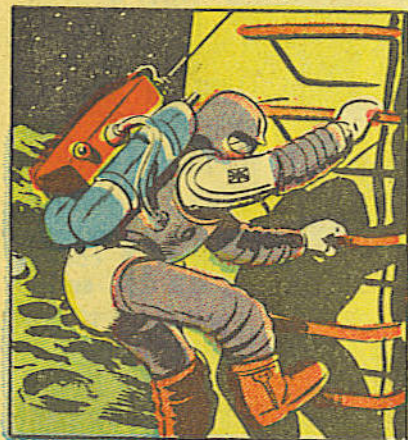
THE END

OUT-POST of EMPIRE



A NEW AND GREATER BRITISH EMPIRE IN SPACE IS VISIONED BY THE BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY. THIS GROUP HAS ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR A 5 DAY SPACE FLIGHT TO CLAIM THE MOON IN HER MAJESTY'S NAME!

THE BRITISH HAVE DESIGNED AN ARMORED SPACE SUIT WITH A 12 HOUR OXYGEN SUPPLY AND REFRIGERATION UNIT...



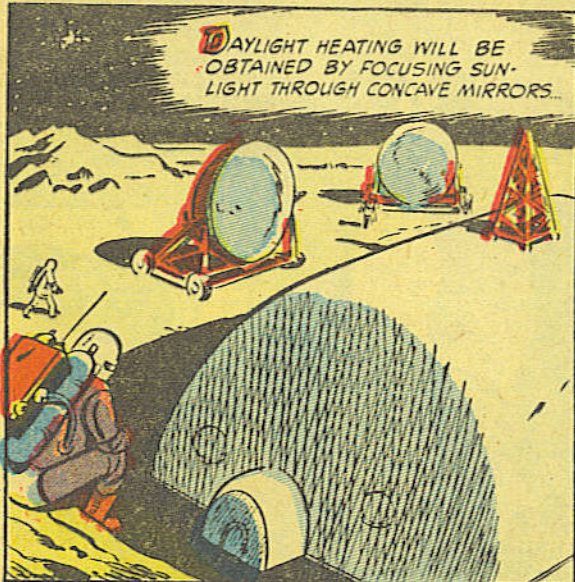
SINCE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ATMOSPHERE TO CARRY SOUND, RADIO COMMUNICATION WILL BE USED. A 50 FOOT MAST WILL GIVE A RANGE OF SIX MILES.



FIRST BASE BUILDING WILL BE A PLASTIC IGLOO, PRESSURIZED AND SILVERED FOR INSULATION AGAINST TEMPERATURE EXTREMES.



DAYLIGHT HEATING WILL BE OBTAINED BY FOCUSING SUNLIGHT THROUGH CONCAVE MIRRORS...



BY EXTRACTING OXYGEN FROM FROZEN WATER IN LUNAR CAVES ROCKET FUEL CAN BE OBTAINED. THE BRITISH SPACEMEN PLAN TO USE THE MOON AS A BASE TO EXPLORE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM!